はがねのれんきんじゅつし

鋼の錬金術師

FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

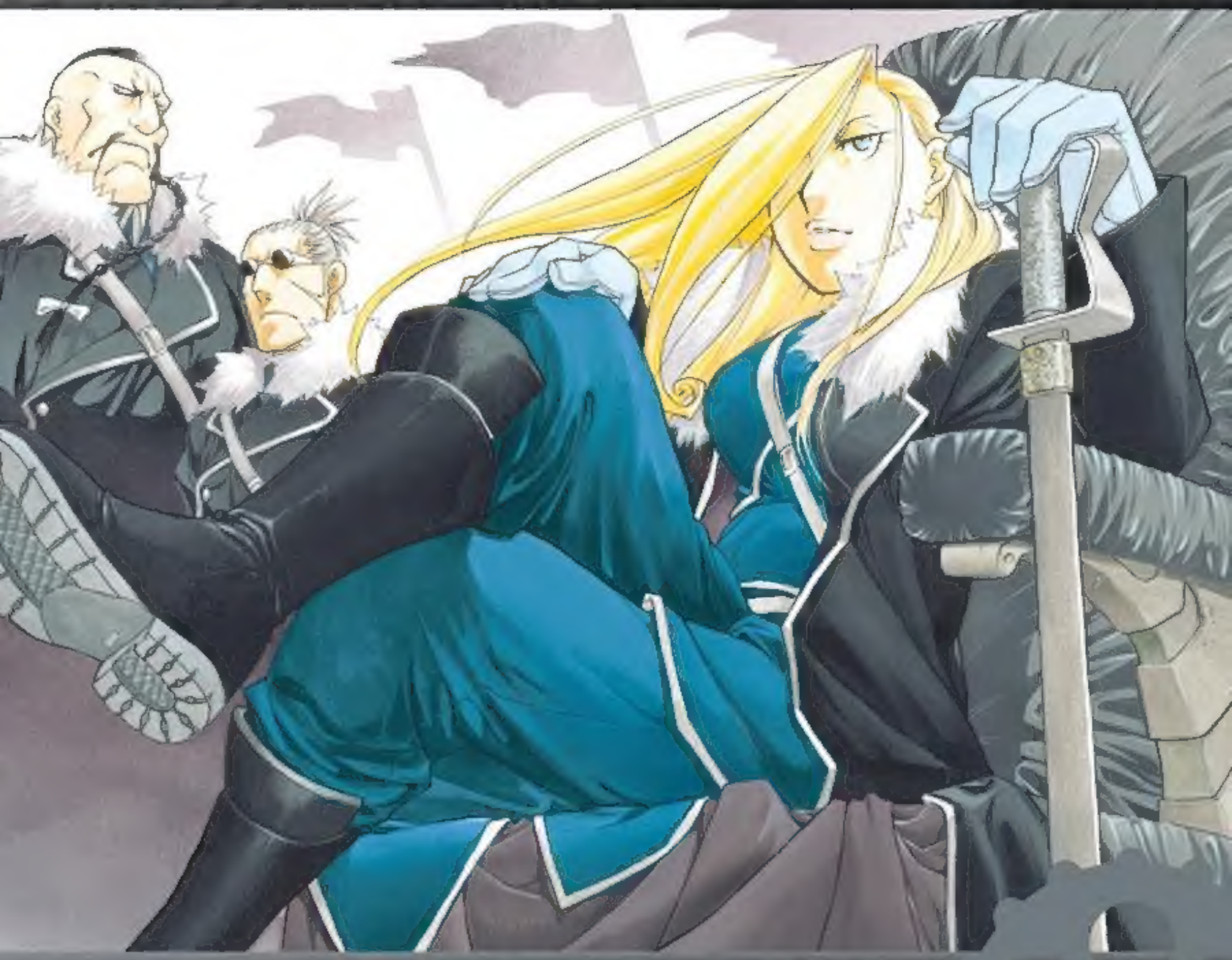
荒川 弘

Hiromu Arakawa

17

GANGAN COMICS

FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST™



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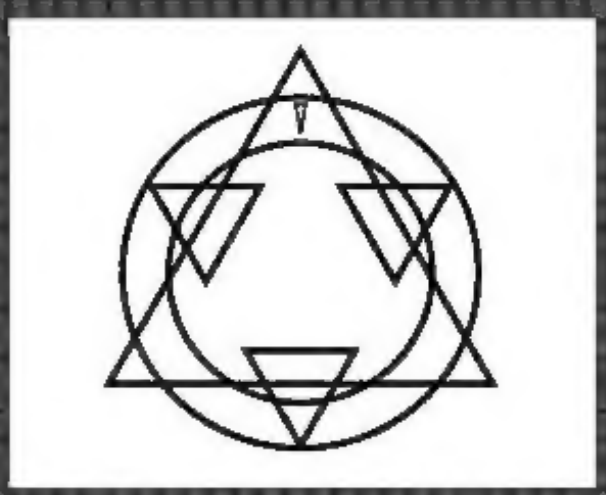
Story and art by
Hiromu Arakawa

When I tried to break the old blade off, I broke the whole utility blade.

—Hiromu Arakawa, 2007



Born in Hokkaido (northern Japan), Hiromu Arakawa first attracted national attention in 1999 with her award-winning manga *Stray Dog*. Her series *Fullmetal Alchemist* debuted in 2001 in Square Enix's monthly manga anthology *Shonen Gangan*.

FULLMETAL
ALCHEMIST

鋼の錬金術師

FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

17

荒川弘

HIROMU ARAKAWA

鋼の錬金術師
FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

CHARACTERS
FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

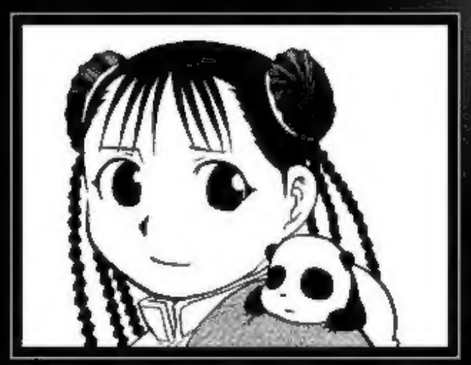
□ ウィンリィ・ロックベル
Winry Rockbell

□ スカー
Scar

□ リザ・ホークアイ
Riza Hawkeye

□ キング・ブラッドレイ
King Bradley

□ ゾルフ・J・キンブリー
Solf J. Kimblee



□ メイ・チャン
May Chang

□ アルフォンス・エルリック
Alphonse Elric

□ エドワード・エルリック
Edward Elric

□ アレックス・ルイ・アームストロング
Alex Louis Armstrong

□ ロイ・マスタング
Roy Mustang

OUTLINE
FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

Using a forbidden alchemical ritual, the Elric Brothers attempted to bring their dead mother back to life. But the ritual went wrong, consuming Edward Elric's leg and Alphonse Elric's entire body. At the cost of his arm, Edward was able to graft his brother's soul into a suit of armor. Equipped with mechanical "auto-mail" to replace his missing limbs, Edward became a state alchemist, serving the military, while roaming the world with his brother in search of the Philosopher's Stone, the legendary substance with the power to restore what they have lost.

Ed suspects that the answers they seek might lie with the unique alchemy commanded by the young girl May, from Xing, who travels with Scar. Tipped off that May was spotted headed north, the Elric brothers set off for Briggs—the Amestrian military's northernmost outpost. But as Ed and Al quickly discover, the only thing less forgiving than Briggs's weather is the regiment of hardened soldiers assigned to defend it...

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I'VE HAD IT!

HWOOOOO

...

I'M SICK OF THIS LIFE !!!

VOOMP

WHY SHOULD I SUFFER INSULT UPON INJURY ?!

I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY-MORE !!

THAT DAMN SCAR..

GRAB

AAAAAAH!

FORGIVE MEEEE!!

GLEAM

NOOOO!

KLATTA KLAK

KLUNK

RUN ?!

WE HAVE TO RUN.

BUT I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG!!

WOOO

WOOO

WOOO

RAIL-WAY SECUR-ITY'S COM-ING.

WOOO

WOOO

I NO LONGER HAVE ANY REASON TO TRAVEL WITH YOU!!

IF...IF...IF I STAY WITH YOU, I WON'T BE ALIVE FOR MUCH LONGER!!

BUT IF YOU GO RUNNING TO THEM NOW...

...AND THEY REALIZE THAT YOU'VE BEEN TRAVELING WITH THE WANTED CRIMINAL SCAR, I DOUBT THEY'LL GIVE YOU A WARM WELCOME.

I...I'M GOING TO SEEK THE PROTECTION OF THE RAILWAY SECURITY AND--

GO AHEAD.

...I'M SURE HE'S EAGER TO REPAY THE SUFFERING TENFOLD TO ANYONE INVOLVED.

AFTER THE SERIOUS INJURY I GAVE HIM JUST NOW...

THAT MAN KIMBLEE HAS AN IMPRESSIVE MEMORY.

NO DOUBT HE REMEMBERS YOUR FACE.

OF COURSE, IF YOU'RE LUCKY, THEY'LL JUST SHOOT YOU ON THE SPOT...

AA-AA-AAH!!!

ES SIR.

...AND MEET UP WITH MARCOH

WE'LL CON-TINUE NORTH ON FOOT...

BWOO

APPARENTLY HE SUFFERED SEVERE INJURIES IN AN ATTACK DURING HIS JOURNEY HERE, AND WAS CHECKED INTO A HOSPITAL AT THE BASE OF THE MOUNTAIN.

CENTRAL COMMAND HAS ASKED US TO AID HIM IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE, SIR.

SOLF J. KIMBLEE ?

NO, SIR.

APPARENTLY HE WAS OFFICIALLY RELEASED.

DID HE ESCAPE?

ISN'T KIMBLEE... THE RED LOTUS ALCHEMIST STILL INCARCERATED?

...I DON'T LIKE IT.

ORDERS FROM THE TOP.

WUUU WUUU WUUU

MAJOR GENERAL ARMSTRONG

WE'VE GOT AN INTRUDER ON THE LOWEST LEVEL !!

WUUUUUU

?!

Chapter 66
The Snow Queen

WUUU

WUUU

WUUU

IT CAME FROM UNDER-GROUND !!!

WHAT ?!

RMBL

WUUU

WUUU

WUUU

RMBLRMBLRMBL

KAA THOW

WUUU

WUUU

WUUU

WUUU

WUUU

WUUU

THUNK

STARE

...!!

...A HOMUN CULUS..

IT'S..

SO THEY ALREADY KNOW THAT WE CAME HERE TO FIND A WAY TO FIGHT THE HOMUNCULI.

DAM-MIT!

WUUU

WUUU

WUUU

WUUU

WUUU

SNORE

HM...

SIGH

WHO...

...ME...

...YOU ?

AH!

HEEY!!

DIDN'T YOUR "FATHER" IN CENTRAL TELL YOU ABOUT US?

WUUU

UM...

UH...

HUH ?

WUUU

WUUU

...OF YOU.

NEVER...

...HEARD...

?

WE'RE NOT HERE TO GET IN YOUR WAY!

OKAY ?!

WE'RE JUST HERE TO FIND A WAY TO GET OUR ORIGINAL BODIES BACK!

...ESPINT

NOT MORE TALK.

TOO MUCH.

DON'T KNOW YOU.

DON'T CARE.

SLOG

WHY MUST...

I WORK...?

DHHH...

SO MUCH WORK.

WORK...

...DIG...

...HOLES.

I JUST...

...KNOW THAT THING?

HEY, DO THOSE TWO...

WHAT ARE THEY WHIS-PERING ABOUT?

HE REALLY HASN'T HEARD ABOUT US FROM HIS "FATHER" OR THE PRESIDENT?

PST

PST

PST

PST

PST

COULD IT BE...

MAYBE THEY'VE BEEN HELPING THAT THING ALL ALONG.

MURMUR MURMUR MURMUR

WHA-?

MURMUR

HUH?

HM?

MURMUR

THEY WERE AWFULLY CHUMMY WITH THAT BIG MONSTER.

I'LL JUST PRETEND I DON'T KNOW THEM.

EEEK!

BLAM

THOSE BASTARDS..

ARE THEY SPIES?

MURMUR MURMUR MURMUR

THIS IS GETTING BAD..

HEY, WAIT A SEC!

THIS IS IN MY WAY

KWONG

WE'RE NOT FRIENDS!!

THEN HOW COME YOU'RE SO FRIENDLY WITH THAT INTRUDER?!!

YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG!!

SO YOU'RE DRACHMA'S SPIES AFTER ALL?!

KATONG

EYAAGH!

SHOOP

HUH ?

WUUU

SLOG

WUUU

I CAN.

STOP.

..ING-GING..

?

THIS..

..PLACE..

..IS ING..

WUUU

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

OPEN FIRE !!

NO WAY !!

BULLETS DON'T DAMAGE IT?!

TING

TING

TING

KAWAL

WHERE..

..AM I ?

THONK

VM
VM
VM
VM
VM
...HM
!?
WHERE.
CLANK
HUH
?
GA
YOOM
WUUU
WUUU
WUUU
WUUU
WUUU
THERE MIGHT BE MORE OF THEM!
MARTIN SQUAD, GO CHECK THE HOLE IT CAME OUT OF!
CRAP! IT'S HEADING UP TO THE RESEARCH LEVEL!
AFTER IT!
WUUU
WUUU
WUUU
WUUU
TMP
TMP
TMP

WUUU WUUU WUUU

WUUU

WUUU

WUUU

WUUU

WUUU

IT'S HUGE!

WHOA

BUT IF YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD CATCH US OFF GUARD COMING FROM BELOW, THINK AGAIN!

THUNK

GASP!

GATUNK

DON'T MOVE !!

WHY YOU...

IT'S...

SLOG

...WARM.

KA BLAM

BOOM

FSHH

WUUU
WUUU
WUUU
WUUU
WUUU
?!
WUUU
WUUU
EXTIN-GUISH THE FIRE "
N-2
THUNK
WHAT ?!
WUUU
WUUU
WUUU
WUUU
THAT THING CAN'T BE DAMAGED WITH FIREARMS!
BOSS, IT'S NO GOOD !
IMPOS-SIBLE! I NEVER MISS.

BOSS !

VRMM

WUUU

WUUU

WUUU

ALL NONCOM-BATANTS, FALL BACK!

TOSS

SILENCE THE ALARM !

WE CAN'T LET THOSE DRACHMA BASTARDS KNOW ABOUT THIS DISTURB-ANCE!

I'M RIGHT HERE, SIR!

VRM

VRM

VRM

KLAK

KLAK

MILES .

NO NEED FOR THAT, SIR.

THIS TANK IS THE PRIDE AND JOY OF THE R&D TEAM!

VRM

HAS IT BEEN TEST DRIVEN ?

VRM

VRM

LOAD THE ARTIL-LERY !!

READY THE FUSES !

FIRE !!

THOOM

BATUNK

HA HA!! DIRECT HIT!!

YES!!

...HUNT...

THAT...

STMP

...IS YOU.

...MOR-

STMP

STMP

STMP

...EF-
FORT

BUT...

...FEEL-
ING PAIN...

STMP

VA AH

FIRE !!

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR ?!! READY THE NEXT SHOT !!

ZUUNK

TOSS

EYAAAAH!

AAAAAH!!

SLAM

ZUPO

THOOM

THOOM

THOOM

FIRE, FIRE, FIRE!!

OH HEHH.

DIG.

HOLE

ZONK

DAMN.

D'ONK

THONK

PLONK

THONK

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT THING?

IS IT DRACH-MA'S NEW WEAPON?

THOOM THOOM

THONK

STMP

HUF

STMP

STMP.

HUF HUF.

HUF.

AA-
AA-
AH
!!

HEEAVE

CLAP

PHEW

WHAM

BRASH

BOOM
THOOM
B... BE-CAUSE...
HOW DO YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT IT?!! EXPLAIN YOURSELF!!
WHAT?
THAT THING WON'T STAY DEAD NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU KILL IT!
IT'S NO USE, GEN-ERAL!
THOOM
THOOM KA-BOOM
I HAVE NO TIME TO WASTE ON FOOLS WHO WON'T TALK.
T GHT LIPS, EH?
...!!
NO WE'RE NOT!!
ARE YOU TWO DRACH-MA S SPIES?!
HUH?!
AND TELL THE TRUTH! ONE LIE AND I'LL CUT YOU DOWN!
SHNK
ANSWER ANY QUES-TIONS YOU CAN.
I NEED AN-SWERS, AND I NEED THEM *NOW*!

I DON'T THINK IT DOES...

DOES IT KNOW WHO YOU TWO ARE?

KLATTA KLATTA

SQUEE

I DON'T THINK SO!

IS THAT *THING* A SPY?

WHY CAN'T YOU ANSWER?!

I CAN'T ANSWER THAT!!

WHOSE ORDERS IS IT OBEYING?

...I CAN'T ANSWER THAT!

WHAT *IS* THAT THING?

I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO GET KILLED.

DO YOU TWO HAVE ANY DESIRE TO HELP US?

TRY TO UNDER-STAND...

BLAM

THOOM

YES, SIR !!

BUCCANEER !

WE'RE GOING TO DOUSE THAT THING!

BRING SOME TANK FUEL!

YAWN

TELL ME ABOUT THAT THING'S BODY! WHAT'S IT MADE OF?

I'M PRETTY SURE ITS ANATOMY IS MORE-OR-LESS HUMAN.

BOOM

IT DOESN'T DIE, BUT IT'S BASICALLY HUMAN ?

HM..

I KNOW WELL ENOUGH FROM OUR PREVIOUS ATTACK THAT IT CAN'T BE KILLED.

ARE YOU STUPID ?!

LIGHT IT ON FIRE ?

LIGHTING IT ON FIRE WON'T KILL IT EITHER!

IT'S NO USE, GENERAL !

I'LL GIVE IT SOMETHING ***MUCH WORSE*** THAN FIRE.

IF IT CAN'T BE KILLED, THEN WE'LL JUST HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER WAY TO ***SHUT IT DOWN.***

GRAB

YOU'RE GONNA SEE HOW WE DO THINGS HERE IN BRIGGS.

AND YOU'RE GONNA HELP.

HUH ?

YOU READY, STATE ALCHEMIST ?

WHAT IF THEY REPORT MY INVOLVE-MENT TO THE ENEMY?

..WHAT IF THAT THING HAS ALLIES HIDDEN HERE IN BRIGGS?

YOU DON'T WANT TO WATCH OUR TROOPS DIE, RIGHT?

HEY...

WAIT !

WELL, YEAH, BUT...

WE NEED YOUR HELP.

YOU TWO ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT MONSTER.

TRUST IN MAJOR GENERAL ARM-STRONG'S JUDGE OF CHAR-ACTER.

EVERYONE HERE IS OF ONE HEART AND MIND.

WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE YOU CAN TRUST US NOW?

A MOMENT AGO YOU SUSPECTED US OF BEING TRAITORS.

THAT'S ENOUGH FOR ME!

YOU JUST SAVED MY COMRADE'S LIFE WITHOUT A MOMENT'S HESITATION.

KIDNAPPER!!

OBEY THE POWER !!

THAT'S THE BRIGGS MANTRA !!

WA HA HA HA HA HA!

CHAK

OR IF YOU'D LIKE...

WOULD YOU PREFER THAT?

...I CAN *THREATEN* YOU INTO HELPING US.

WHAAAAT?

ALL RIGHT, YOU CAN HELP TOO

THAT'S OUR BEST PAL!!

HEY- WHO'S THAT *MOP*-HEAD BACK THERE?

...RIGHT, MR. BUCCA-NEER?

THEN I CAN TRUST YOU TOO..

YES, SIR !!

BUCC-ANEER !! GATE 8!!

MOVE IT!!

SLOOSH

HURRY !!

DON'T SPILL IT!!

SMACK

PUSH IT INTO THE ELEVATOR !!

CHARGE !

YES SIR !!

SKKKKID SKKKKID SKKKKID SKKKKID

NGGH!

PUSH, PUSH !!

HEFT

?!!

...TOO MUCH...

WORK...

IT'S PICKING UP THE TANK?!

KRNK KRNK KRNK

WHAT ?!

KLANK VRR VRR VRR

KLANK VRR VRR

NO, IT'S WORKING. WE'RE PUSHING IT BACK.

KRNK KRNK KRNK

THIS IS CRAZY, BOSS !!

OW.

TH WACK

TONK

ROTATE TURRET TO THE RIGHT!!

AGH... AYE, SIR !!

ROTATING TURRET STARBOARD !!

MILES !!

IT'S IN !!

KA-TOOM

ON IT, SIR !!

GATHOOM

GO GO GO GO

TK TK

OPEN CLOSE
HALL 3 8
7
GATE 1 6
GATE 2
GATE 1 1
HALL 2
BUNKER B1

GATAN GATAN GATAN GATAN

GATAN GATAN GATAN

BWOOO

ALL RIGHT, THERE IT GOES !!

ACCA

SLOG

I'M LOST

...!?

WHERE...

...IN...

?

GATHOOM

VOOM

HUH ?

SHF

BWOOOOOO

GA TE

COLD...

NGH...

KER

SLAM

SLOD

SH

?!

DO IT!! NOW !!

SHUFF

SMELLS BAD...

?

GOOD WORK !!

BIN GO !!

TONK

...

...A HEAD ?

DOUUUU

DON'T TELL ME YOU HAVEN'T PLANNED THAT FAR...

RRGH !!

SO...HOW EXACTLY ARE WE GONNA PUSH IT OUTSIDE THE GATE ?!!

VRM

VRM VRM

MOVE IT, SHORTY.

KLANG

KLANG KLANG

KLANG

KLANG

KLANG

VRM

VRM VRM

VRM

VRM

VRM

KATHANG

GRAK KLANG

SLAM

GA

BANG

SKKKKKID

BWOOOO

KLONK

WHEEZE

VRM VRM

IT TOOK THREE TANKS TO DO THAT EARLIER, SIR!!

ONE ON ONE, WE HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE !!

VRM

SHOULD WE RAM HIM OVER THE EDGE?

VRM VRM

WE'RE OUT OF AMMO, SIR!!

FIRE AN-OTHER SHOT !!

VRM VRM VRM

WE WERE SO CLOSE !!

WHAT DO WE DO?

GA

HWOOOOOOOOOO

BLAM

HOW ABOUT THIS ?!

BLAM BLAM

WELL THEN..

I TOLD YOU GUNS WON'T—

FOOL !!

SN AP

HUH ?

KRAK

KRAK

SWAY

...ER ?

KRUNK

N CE WORK, WARRANT OFFICER FALMAN !!

I'M A 2ND LIEJ- TENANT !!

DASH

YAAAAAH!

WUMP

BOH

COLD...

BYWOOOOO

BRRR...

POF

TOO MUCH EXHAUST...

PAKI

FWOOO

NEED...

...TO GET...

...INSIDE

PIKI PAKI

ON TOP OF THAT, WE'VE GOT THIS BLIZ-ZARD ON OUR SIDE.

THAT WAS COM-POSITE FUEL FOR USE IN COLD CLI-MATES.

EVEN AT THIS EXTREMELY COLD TEMPERATURE, IT EVAPORATES. IT ROBBED THAT THING OF ITS BODY WARMTH INSTANTLY.

BWOOOOOO

HWOOO

WOOO

KYOOO

...BODY...

...WON'T...

...WE

GASP...

KLAK KLAK KLAK

IT'S COLD ENOUGH TO EVEN FREEZE ITS BRAIN!

KA

FWUMP

KRICKLE

oooo

HIBERNATE THERE UNTIL SPRING...

...YOU SLUG.

ooooo

I NEVER EXPECTED A DIRECT ATTACK ON OUR CORE.

GATON

GATON

GATON

GATON

GATON

UH... AND THIS ?

THIS WAY YOU CAN SAY YOU WERE FORCED TO AID US.

ISN'T THAT BETTER FOR YOU... CONSIDERING YOUR SITUATION ?

I NEED A NEW DEFENSE PLAN IN CASE THIS HAPPENS AGAIN.

YEAH...

IF YOU'RE A FRIEND OF THEIRS, THEN THERE'S A GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT YOU KNOW SOMETHING AS WELL

WHY ME TOO ?!

YES, MA'AM

ALSO, KNOW THAT I HAVE NO INTENTION OF RELEASING YOU UNTIL I FIGURE OUT WHAT THAT BIG MONSTER IS.

ALMOST 20 YEARS AGO...

THERE WAS AN INCIDENT DURING MIDWINTER... A MOUNTAIN PATROL SQUAD WAS ATTACKED.

NOT SINCE I ARRIVED.

SO IT DID HAPPEN BEFORE THEN?

I CAN'T BELIEVE AN INTRUDER MADE IT PAST OUR DEFENSES. IT'S A DISGRACE!

THAT'S NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE ?

- I SURVIVED FOR ONE MONTH ON MT. BRIGGS.

DURING MIDWINTER.

IT WAS HER..

IT WAS HER !!

SHE WAS BELIEVED TO BE ONE OF DRACHMA'S SPIES.

AN UN-KNOWN FE-MALE...

..STOLE FOOD AND EQUIPMENT FOR A WHOLE MONTH. BUT THEN, ALL OF A SUDDEN, THE ATTACKS STOPPED.

JUST HOW FAR DOES THIS HOLE GO?

WHOA...

HYOOO

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS THING ANYWAY?

ONE OF DRACHMA'S BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS?

BULLETS CAN'T KILL IT...

HARD TO BE-LIEVE.

OKAY, OKAY.

SLOSH

KEEP POURING OIL ON IT SO IT STAYS FROZEN.

DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.

GEEZ, IT'S COLD.

I CAN'T WAIT FOR MY SHIFT TO END.

TOO

MUCH

OOOOOOOOOOOO

FULLMETAL
ALCHEMIST

HWOOOOO

FLOP

BRR.. IT'S COLD !

CLANK

YAWN..

..."CLANK" ?

...

YOU AWAKE ?

HEY.

Chapter 67
Burgeoning Borders

GROAN

OH YEAH...

NOW I RE-MEM-BER..

HOS-PITAL ?

AND MAJOR MILES IS AT THE HOS-PITAL.

MAJOR GENERAL ARM-STRONG HASN'T LEFT THE SITE EITHER.

I HEAR HE WAS SERIOUSLY INJURED FROM BATTLING SCAR ON HIS WAY HERE.

APPAR-ENTLY AN ALCHEMIST NAMED ***KIMBLEE*** IS BEING TREATED THERE

ANY PRO-GRESS... ?

NO.

CAPTAIN BUCCANEER AND 2ND LT. FALMAN ARE LEADING A SCOUTING PARTY TO INVESTIGATE THE HOLE, BUT THEY HAVEN'T RETURNED YET.

SCAR AND THE RED LOTUS ALCHEMIST ARE **BOTH** HERE IN THE NORTH...

READY...

SHUF

SHUF SHUF

HANG IN THERE.

SLAP

SNORT

PULL

SHUF SHUF

I HAVE A MEETING TO GET TO.

DOWN TO THE HOSPITAL.

CLAK

WHERE TO, SIR?

HUH?! YOU MEAN...

SOLF J. KIMBLEE IS THERE— HOSPITALIZED.

YES, SIR.

THIS TIME OF YEAR, THE SHADE ACTS AS A NATURAL FREEZER.

YOU'RE MOVING IT INTO THE SHADE?

READY

PULL

THE GUY WHO MASSACRED ALL THOSE ISHBALANS.

YUP.

THAT'S RIGHT.

WHICH MEANS THEY'RE MOST LIKELY STILL ALIVE AND HIDING SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE.

THEY DIDN'T FIND THE BODIES OF SCAR OR THE GUY HE WAS WITH—SOME MIDDLE-AGED MAN -IN THE FREIGHT CARS THAT GOT CUT LOOSE...

I'M ONLY WARNING THE SOLDIERS OF BRIGGS AS A COURTESY.

KEEP ON GUARDING YOUR FORT, AND DON'T GET IN MY WAY.

..AND NOW SCAR.

FIRST THE SEARCH FOR A BLACK-AND-WHITE CAT...

GREAT... MORE BUSY-WORK.

THIS IS STILL *MY* ASSIGN-MENT.

NOT SO FAST.

LEAVE SCAR TO US AND FOCUS ON YOUR RE-COVERY.

UNDER-STOOD.

...

THE ISHBALAN IS *MY* PREY.

SORRY, PAL. WE BRIGGS SOLDIERS AREN'T ABOUT TO LET A *MASS-MURDERER* ROAM FREE ON OUR TURF.

THE ONLY LAW HERE IS THE SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST.

HM ?

AM I MAKING MY-SELF CLEAR ?

LET YOUR GUARD DOWN FOR A SECOND AND YOU DIE.

KEEP UP THE TOUGH GUY ACT, AND I'LL CUT YOUR LIFELINE RIGHT NOW!

WHAT CAN YOU DO IN YOUR CONDI-TION, RED LOTUS?

PAT

SO DON'T MAKE ANY TROU-BLE.

BRIGGS HEAD-QUARTERS HAS BEEN ORDERED TO LOOK AFTER YOU.

ISHBA-LANS ARE TRULY AN INTER-ESTING LOT.

HEH HEH...

KLAK KLAK KLAK SLAM

YOU'RE EARLY...

..LT GEN-ERAL RAVEN.

NOK

HELLO, KIM-BLEE.

I LEFT AS SOON AS I HEARD THE NEWS.

WE WERE WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

HOLDING UP...?

KREEEAK

...IS THIS.

LET'S BE HONEST, GENERAL. WHAT YOU'RE ALL *REALLY* WORRIED ABOUT...

BUT IN MY CONDI-TION...

GOOD. CON-TINUE WITH YOUR ASSIGN-MENT.

AND WE HAVE THE STONE.

YOU'LL BE GOOD AS NEW IN NO TIME

I'VE BROUGHT ALONG A DOCTOR WHO CAN USE ALCHEMY TO SPEED YOUR RECOVERY

GRIN

DON'T WORRY.

THE SCOUTING PARTY HAS RETURNED !

MAJOR GENERAL ARM-STRONG!

WIDE ENOUGH FOR A SMALL ARMY TO PASS THROUGH.

AND IT SEEMS TO GO ON FOR-EVER.

IT'S TOO BRIGHT.

IT WAS BIG, SIR.

REALLY BIG.

WHAT DID YOU FIND ?

I'D LIKE TO LOOK.

WE SHOULD TAKE FRESH TROOPS ON THE NEXT SCOUTING PARTY, SIR.

WE'LL NEED HORSES AND SUPPLIES AS WELL.

NO MATTER HOW FAR WE WENT, IT NEVER SEEMED TO END. SO WE TURNED BACK.

WE WEREN'T ABLE TO REACH THE END OF IT.

THE SCOUTING PARTY DISCOVERED NO HAZARDS OR INSTABILITY.

YOU'RE SURE IT'S SAFE?

WNCH

WNCH

WNCH

THE ELRIC BRO-THERS TOO.

WE'LL DRAG THEM ALONG.

ALL RIGHT. SEND DOWN HORSES FOR US AS WELL.

WE KEEP GOING AND GOING BUT THERE'S NO END IN SIGHT.

CLOP

CLOP

CLOP

THIS PLACE REALLY IS HUGE.

WOW..

CLOP

HUH?

DIS-MOUNT

THIS IS FAR ENOUGH.

NO, BUT...

KLAK

IS THERE SOME-THING TO SEE HERE?

HERE?

I WANT *EVERY-THING,* THIS TIME.

TELL ME WHAT YOU TWO KNOW.

THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT BEING SEEN OR HEARD.

...YOU SAID, "TRY TO UNDER-STAND."

WHEN THAT BIG MONSTER APPEARED AND I QUESTIONED YOU ABOUT IT...

DON'T HIDE A THING.

...!!

IF YOU'RE WILLING TO PUT YOUR LIFE ON THE LINE LIKE THAT, THERE MUST BE SOMETHING MORE VALUABLE TO YOU THAT YOU'RE PROTECTING...

SOMETHING THAT YOU WANT ME TO UNDERSTAND.

SOMEONE WHOM YOU COULD *TRUST*.

YOUR WORDS IMPLIED THAT I WAS SOMEONE WHO WOULD SYMPATHIZE WITH YOU.

YOU KNEW I HAD EVERY CAUSE TO CUT YOU DOWN FOR REFUSING TO COOPERATE. SO WHY DID YOU SAY THAT?

FOR EXAMPLE...

...A *HOSTAGE* PERHAPS?

...

I NEED YOUR HELP.

I DON'T WANT ANY LIES, SECRECY, OR DE-CEPTION.

SPEAK THE TRUTH.

THOSE THINGS THAT CAN'T BE KILLED... THEY KNOW MY WEAK-NESS.

IT'S MY CHILD-HOOD FRIEND, THE AUTO-MAIL ENGI-NEER.

SHAKE SHAKE

TOK TOK

THE HOMUN-CULI.

THE PHILOS-OPHER'S STONE.

DRIP

KING BRADLEY.

THE MAN THEY CALL "FATHER"...

AND CORRUPTION IN MILITARY HIGH COMMAND...

...

TOK

SO IT WAS ABOUT A HOSTAGE.

A CHILDHOOD FRIEND AND MUSTANG'S SUBORDINATE...

WE OFTEN TRAINED WITH THE SOLDIERS FROM EASTERN HQ. I KNOW OF HAWKEYE AND HAVOC.

IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO LOSE THEM.

THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WE CAN DO.

UM... AND COLONEL MUSTANG?

RIGHT. OH...

I DON'T GIVE A RAT'S ASS ABOUT HIM.

HANG IN THERE, COLONEL!!

AAAAAH!

HIS DOWNFALL WOULD PLEASE ME. IT WOULD MEAN ONE LESS RIVAL.

ACTU-ALLY...

I PROBABLY WOULD HAVE DONE THE SAME.

I'D SAY IT'S A VERY RATIONAL AND EFFECTIVE WAY OF DEALING WITH PEOPLE LIKE THIS.

YOU THINK SO?

BUT HOW ***COWARDLY*** OF THEM TO TAKE AN INNOCENT GIRL AS HOSTAGE!

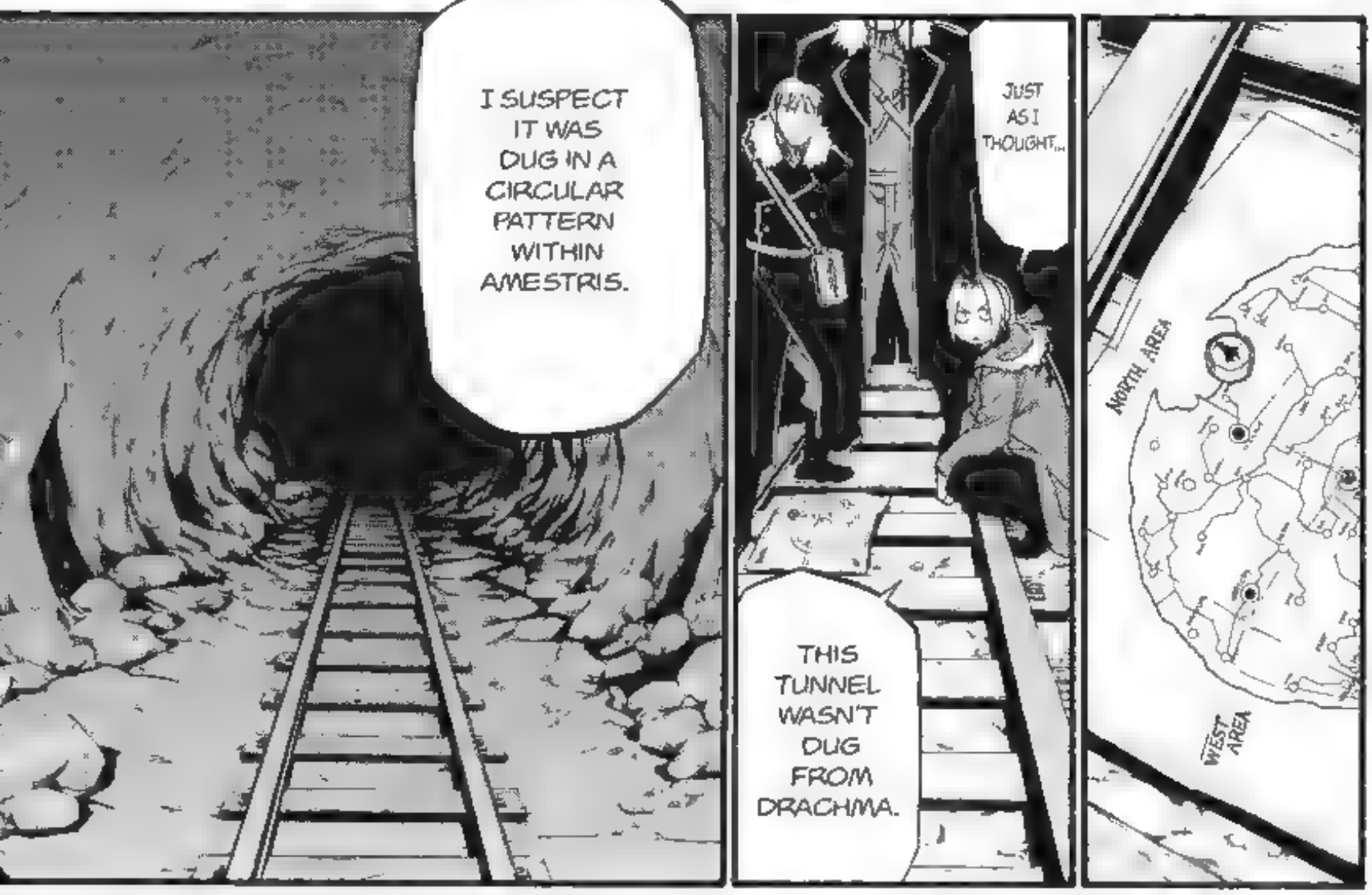
THIS TUN-NEL...

ALCHEMISTS— WHAT'S YOUR OPINION OF IT?

THE REAL QUESTION IS, WHAT DO WE DO...

...NEXT?

AND A COM-PASS.
THE EN-TIRE COUN-TRY.
A MAP OF THE ENTIRE COUNTRY OR A LOCAL MAP?
SURE.
DO YOU HAVE A MAP?


I SUSPECT IT WAS DUG IN A CIRCULAR PATTERN WITHIN AMESTRIS.
JUST AS I THOUGHT...
THIS TUNNEL WASN'T DUG FROM DRACHMA.
NORTH AREA
WEST AREA

IN ALCHEMY, THE CIRCLE IS BOTH A SYMBOLIC AND LITERAL CONDUIT FOR THE FLOW OF POWER.
A CIR-CLE..?

NORTH AREA
EAST AREA
CENTRAL
SKRICH
NEXT IS...
...THE EQUATION.
2ND LT FALMAN.
COULD YOU LIST THE INCIDENTS IN THIS COUNTRY'S HISTORY THAT RESULTED IN MAJOR BLOODSHED?
...!
WHAT THE...?
IN MAY 1911 THE SECOND SOUTHERN BORDER WAR TOOK PLACE IN SOUTH FOTSET.
OCTOBER 1835, THE FIRST SOUTHERN BORDER WAR TOOK PLACE IN WHAT IS NOW SOUTH CITY.
MARCH 1811. THE WELLESLEY INCIDENT.
FEBRUARY 1799. THE SOAPMAN INCIDENT.
THAT WAS IN FISK.
OCTOBER 1661. THE CAMERON CIVIL WAR.
RECKLESS MILITARY STRATEGIES HAVE LED TO THE DEATH OF COUNTLESS SOLDIERS.
IT'S CURRENTLY IN THE MIDST OF A BITTER BORDER WAR.
WHAT ABOUT PENDLETON, IN THE WEST?
JULY 1558. THE RIVIERE INCIDENT.
RIVIERE...

THERE WERE MASS CASUAL-TIES.

...AND FINALLY, 1914.

THE REOLE RIOT.

THAT'S RIGHT.

AFTER I EXPOSED THE FOUNDER OF THE RELIGION AS A FRAUD, I IMMEDIATELY REPORTED TO EASTERN HQ, DIDN'T I?

WE LOST JURISDICTION OF THE SITE TO THE CENTRAL CITY TROOPS THAT CAME LATER!

THEN HOW DID THINGS GO SO HORRIBLY WRONG?!

AND THE EAST AREA TROOPS MOBILIZED AND STOPPED A RIOT BEFORE IT BEGAN.

I HEARD THEY JUST OBSERVED THE DISTURBANCE AND DID NOTHING TO STOP IT.

THE SITUATION ONLY EXPLODED AFTER THE CENTRAL CITY TROOPS FORCED THEIR WAY IN AND THE EASTERN REGION TROOPS WERE DISMISSED.

I DON'T HAVE TIME TO SIT AND WATCH YOU TWO WORK OUT YOUR GUILT.

TAKING IT OUT ON FALMAN WON'T GET US ANYWHERE.

KEEP WORKING ON THAT MAP, FULL-METAL.

WHY WOULD THEY... DAM-MIT "

NEXT.

SKRICH SKRICH

...I'LL CONNECT EACH SITE...

...

...

!!

REOLE

SHOOP

NORTH AREA

nestris

WEST AREA

1914

1911

IT'S IDENTICAL TO THE TRANS-MUTATION CIRCLE FROM LABORATORY NUMBER FIVE!!

..HOW CAN THIS BE?

...

HOW MANY LIVES WOULD BE SACRIFICED IF SOMEONE CREATED A STONE WITH A CIRCLE THIS HUGE?!

IS THAT THE CIRCLE THAT USES HUMAN LIVES TO CREATE THE PHILOS-OPHER'S STONE?!

"YOU'RE ALMOST RIGHT. YOU'RE SO CLOSE."

BUT HE JUST LAUGHED AND SAID..

"YOU'RE TRYING TO USE THIS COUNTRY TO CREATE A PHILOS-OPHER'S STONE, AREN'T YOU?"

..THAT'S WHAT I ONCE ASKED ENVY.

THE TRUTH THAT LIES ***WITHIN*** IS THE EXISTENCE OF THOSE WHO GAVE THAT ORDER.

THE TRUTH IS THAT THE MAIN REAGENT FOR CREATING A PHILOS-OPHER'S STONE IS A LIVING HUMAN BEING.

AND ONCE I TOLD EDWARD, "YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SEE THE TRUTH THAT LIES WITHIN THE TRUTH."

THERE MUST BE SOME-THING MORE..

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL.

AND AN EVEN ***DEEPER*** TRUTH IS THE PLAN TO TRANSMUTE A PHILOSOPHER'S STONE BY USING THE ***VERY LAND*** OF THIS ***ENTIRE COUNTRY.***

THERE MUST BE SOME-THING MORE !

NO...

MAY, I NEED YOUR HELP.

SURE !!

WITH MY KNOWLEDGE OF ALCHEMY AND YOUR UNDER-STANDING OF THE PURIFICATION ARTS, WE MUST BE ABLE TO DECIPHER THESE RESEARCH NOTES!

THE OLDEST IS THE RIVIERE INCIDENT OF 1558, CORRECT ?

TAP

TAP

RIVIERE

HUH ?

THAT'S RIGHT AFTER THE FOUNDING OF AMESTRIS...

LIKE MORE WHAT? ? WHAT MORE COULD THERE BE?

LIKE... US BEING CANDI-DATES FOR "HUMAN SACRI-FICE."

WAIT A SEC'...

THEY ATTACKED RIVIERE, A NEIGHBORING NATION, WITHOUT FIRST DECLARING WAR.

THAT MEANS THE MILITARY WAS INVOLVED IN EVERY ONE OF THESE INCI-DENTS !!

IN THE BEGINNING, AMESTRIS'S TERRITORY WAS SMALL, BUT IT EXPANDED ITS BORDERS BY CONQUERING THE SMALLER COUNTRIES AROUND IT.

VERY EFFI-CIENT.

IT SEIZED *JUST ENOUGH* LAND TO CREATE THIS CIRCLE.

THIS HAS BEEN HAPPENING SINCE THE FOUNDING OF THIS COUNTRY... !!

IT WAS ALWAYS EITHER A COUP D'ETAT OR A CIVIL WAR.

REGLE WAS NO DIFFER-ENT.

NORMALLY, THE SECT LEADER WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED AND THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE END OF IT, BUT THE CENTRAL CITY TROOPS CAME AND MADE AN EVEN BIGGER MESS OUT OF IT

...THEY CREATED THIS COUNTRY FROM SCRATCH IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH THEIR GOAL?

SO THEY WEREN'T TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH THEIR GOAL BY USING THIS COUNTRY...

EVERY-THING WENT ACCORDING TO THEIR PLAN.

QUITE A RA-TIONAL STRAT-EGY.

..WAS TO SERVE THIS PLOT?

YOU'RE SAYING THE ONLY REASON THIS COUNTRY ACCEPTED A MILITARY DICTATOR-SHIP...

UH-HUH.

THEN, MR. HUGHES WAS-"

IT'S LIKE IT'S ALL A GAME TO THEM...

SO HE WAS THE FIRST TO REALIZE THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THIS COUNTRY FROM THE MOMENT IT WAS FOUNDED...

AND SINCE HE WORKED IN THE COURT-MARTIAL OFFICE, IT MUST HAVE BEEN EASY FOR HIM TO RESEARCH MILITARY CAMPAIGNS.

BEFORE HE WAS KILLED HE SAW THE TRANS-MUTATION CIRCLE FOR THE PHILOS-OPHER'S STONE.

THOSE BAS-TARDS !!

"YOU HUMANS THINK YOU CONTROL THE WORLD, BUT YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE PLAYING WITH."

ENVY..

CLICK

DAM-MIT !!

OR RATHER, THE *ONLY* *PLACE LEFT* FOR BLOODSHED IS *HERE* IN *BRIGGS*.

KL

AK

AREA

JUDGING FROM THIS MAP, THE NEXT PLACE TO SEE BLOOD-SHED...

CLOP CLOP CLOP CLOP

!!

WHAT ARE THOSE CENTRAL CITY BASTARDS PLANNING TO USE MY FORTRESS FOR?!

HM ?

CLOP CLOP CLOP

HEEEY!

A MES-SEN-GER ?

I DON'T LIKE IT.

I DON'T LIKE IT ONE BIT.

WHAT'S HAP-PENED?

GEN-ERAL, YOU'RE NEEDED BACK AT THE BASE.

I WON-DER WHY HE'S HERE?

TCH!

THEY DON'T INTEND TO GIVE US A MOMENT TO THINK, EH?

!

LT. GENERAL RAVEN FROM CENTRAL COMMAND IS HERE!

I'M GOING TO PUT MY FAITH IN YOUR COUR-AGE.

I MEAN... I HAVE AN IDEA... BUT I'M ONLY BRINGING IT UP BECAUSE I KNOW IT'S SOMETHING THAT ***ONLY YOU*** CAN PULL OFF.

MAJOR GENERAL ARM-STRONG,

...

I'M NOT SURE...

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO ***CON*** LIEUTENANT GENERAL RAVEN?

?

IT'S MY FAULT FOR COMING HERE WITH-OUT NOTICE

NO PROB-LEM.

MAJOR GENERAL ARM-STRONG SHOULD RETURN SHORTLY.

I'M SORRY YOU WERE KEPT WAITING, SIR.

KLAK KLAK

WELCOME, LT. GENERAL RAVEN.

KLAK

I'VE BROUGHT A *GUEST*.

OH, YES..

NOTHING FORMAL.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR VISIT, SIR?

NOTHING URGENT.

I HAD SOME BUSINESS IN THE AREA... THOUGHT I'D PAY YOU A CALL.

...TO GIVE HIM A TOUR OF THE BASE?

MAJOR MILES, WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS...

HELLO AGAIN, MAJOR.

YOU MENTIONED THAT YOU WERE GOING TO LOOK AFTER ME?

A MON-STER ?

WE WERE ABLE TO REPEL THE ATTACK, BUT THE ENEMY TURNED OUT TO BE SOME KIND OF *MONSTER*.

I APOL-OGIZE FOR ALL THE COM-MOTION, LT. GENERAL RAVEN.

AN ENEMY ATTACKED US FROM BELOW GROUND.

WHAT ?!

HOW... TROUBLE-SOME...

REALLY ?

WE COULDN'T KILL IT, NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES WE SHOT IT DOWN, SIR.

THE ELRIC BRO-THERS ?!

WHEN THE ELRIC BRO-THERS--

I SUSPECT IT MIGHT BE SOME SORT OF BIOLOGICAL WEAPON FROM DRACHMA.

THE BROTHERS SEEMED TO KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT IT BUT WOULDN'T TELL US ANYTHING.

IT WAS THAT SAME EVENING THAT THIS UNKNOWN MONSTER ATTACKED US.

COINCI-DENTALLY, WE'D TAKEN THE FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST AND HIS YOUNGER BROTHER INTO OUR CUSTODY.

HM...

OH... YES, I WOULD.

THEY WOULDN'T TELL YOU ANY-THING ?

NO, SIR

THEY HAVEN'T UTTERED A WORD REGARDING THIS MYSTERIOUS BIOLOGICAL WEAPON.

THE FACT THAT A STATE ALCHEMIST, UNDER THE PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE'S DIRECT CONTROL, COULD BE A SPY FOR DRACHMA IS MOST TROUBLING. I HAD THEM TAKEN INTO CUSTODY.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO INTER-ROGATE THEM, SIR?

IT'S ALL VERY VAGUE AND SUSPI-CIOUS.

APPAR-ENTLY THEIR REASON FOR COMING HERE HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH PHYSICAL TRANS-MUTATION OR SOME SUCH BUSINESS.

I AM A WOMAN AFTER ALL.

IT WAS TOO PAINFUL FOR ME TO EVEN CONTEMPLATE HURTING A CHILD--I JUST COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO DO IT.

I CONSIDERED TORTURING THEM UNDER SUSPICION OF TREASON, BUT...

KLATTA

I'M AT THE AGE NOW WHEN IT WOULDN'T BE UNUSUAL TO HAVE A CHILD OR TWO OF MY OWN.

BUT I SUPPOSE I'VE MISSED MY CHANCE.

TEE HEE

HA HA HA HA! SO EVEN YOU, THE STOIC SOLDIER NICKNAMED "NORTHERN WALL OF BRIGGS," HAVE A SOFT SPOT FOR CHILDREN.

...FOR A *QUEEN* WITH A *HEART OF ICE.*

THAT'S A GOOD ONE...

HEW

EVEN THOJGH I M STILL RELAT VELY YOUNG, I CAN FEEL THE YEARS TAK NG THE R TOLL.

YOJ SEE...

NOT AT ALL, SIR

SOME- ONE LIKE YOU MUST HAVE COUNT LESS MEN FIGHTING FOR YOUR AFFEC- TIONS.

NON- SENSE !

ITS BODY WAS **INCRED- IBLE.**

BUT THAT BIOLOGICAL WEAPON OF DRACH- MA'S...

I'M TER- RIFIED OF AGING.

LIKE SOME- THING OUT OF A **DREAM.**

IT WAS **IM- MORTAL.**

...MAJOR GENERAL ?

KLACK

..WILL BE- COME A REAL- ITY...

WHAT IF I WERE TO TELL YOU THAT SOON THAT DREAM...

JUST IMAGINE— AN ENTIRELY IMMORTAL ARMY!

HE TOOK THE BAIT !!

I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THE PRACTITIONERS OF THE PURIFICATION ARTS MEAN BY THE "DRAGON'S PULSE."

YOU SEE.. THE EARTH ITSELF HAS AN ENERGY.

THE EARTH...?

LIKE A LIFE FORCE, THE ENERGY MAINTAINS HARMONY IN THE WORLD.

BZZT

BY UNDERSTANDING THE HARMONY OF THIS PULSE...

SKRICH SKRICH

HM... YOU COULD THINK OF IT AS A RIVER OF POWER THAT FLOWS IN THE GROUND LIKE A PULSE.

THIS POWER CAN BE APPLIED TO ANYTHING!

BZAP

...IT'S POSSIBLE TO ***RIDE*** THAT FLOW AND TRANSMUTE SOMETHING TO A DISTANT LOCATION.

?

I'LL SHOW YOU...

SO WHEN YOU SAY ANYTHING... DOES THAT INCLUDE THE HUMAN BODY TOO?

...

YES!

WOW. THAT'S INTERESTING.

...POKED MY BACK, IT FELT LIKE A BOLT OF ELECTRICITY RAN THROUGH ME ALL THE WAY TO THE TIP OF MY TOES!!

OW OW OW!

WHEN YOU...

ARRRGH!!!

POKE

HERE.

A DOCTOR GETS CARELESS ABOUT HIS OWN BODY.

WELL, AT MY AGE...

...EVERY-THING'S FALLING APART.

RUB RUB

MR. MARCOH, YOU SHOULD TAKE BETTER CARE OF YOUR BACK.

YOUR ENERGY FLOW IS VERY STAG-NANT.

AAAGH!

OW OW OW!

MY EYES!! MY EYES !!

WHY DO MY EYES FEEL THE SHOCK WHEN IT'S MY NECK THAT YOU TOUCHED?!!

I SEE?!!

MY EYES !!!

POKE

YOU KNOW, IF I PRESS YOUR NECK HERE...

NO. IT EMPLOYS THE ENERGY GENERATED FROM THE MOVEMENT OF THE PLATES ON THE EARTH'S SURFACE.

AMESTRIAN ALCHEMY DOESN'T USE THE DRAGON PULSE, DOES IT?

OW!!!

I SEE...

SO THAT'S THE PRINCIPLE BEHIND REMOTE TRANS-MUTATION...

THAT'S CAUSED BY THE MOVEMENT OF PLATES BENEATH THE EARTH'S CRUST. THE ALCHEMY OF THIS COUNTRY STEMS FROM HARNESSING THAT DIASTROPHIC ENERGY.

HAI YAAA

YOU KNOW HOW MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF ENERGY ARE RELEASED DURING AN EARTHQUAKE OR WHEN A VOLCANO ERUPTS?

PLATE!

..THAT'S JUST A LEGEND.

...

ACCORDING TO LEGEND, A PHILOS-OPHER FROM THE EAST GAVE US THOSE EQUATIONS, BUT..

IN FACT, THE EQUATIONS FOR DOING THAT WERE COMPLETED ***OVER 350 YEARS AGO.***

HUH ?

BUT... THAT'S NOT TOTALLY TRUE, IS IT?

IT'S FROM THE MOVEMENT OF LOTS AND LOTS OF PEOPLE.

..AND THAT FEELING GOT CLEAR TO ME THE OTHER DAY WHEN I WAS IN THE TUNNELS UNDER CENTRAL CITY.

I'VE HAD A FUNNY FEELING EVER SINCE I FIRST CAME TO THIS COUNTRY..

THIS POWER THAT FLOWS BENEATH OUR FEET ISN'T COMING FROM THE MOVEMENT OF THE EARTH'S PLATES..

CORAN.

TONI.

WILLARD.

RIPLEY.

MEHITILT.

MEIYO.

I'M SORRY.

I'M GOING TO HAVE TO USE ALL OF YOU.

ZU GUK

GOOSH

SLOOSH

VOOP

VOOP

VOOP

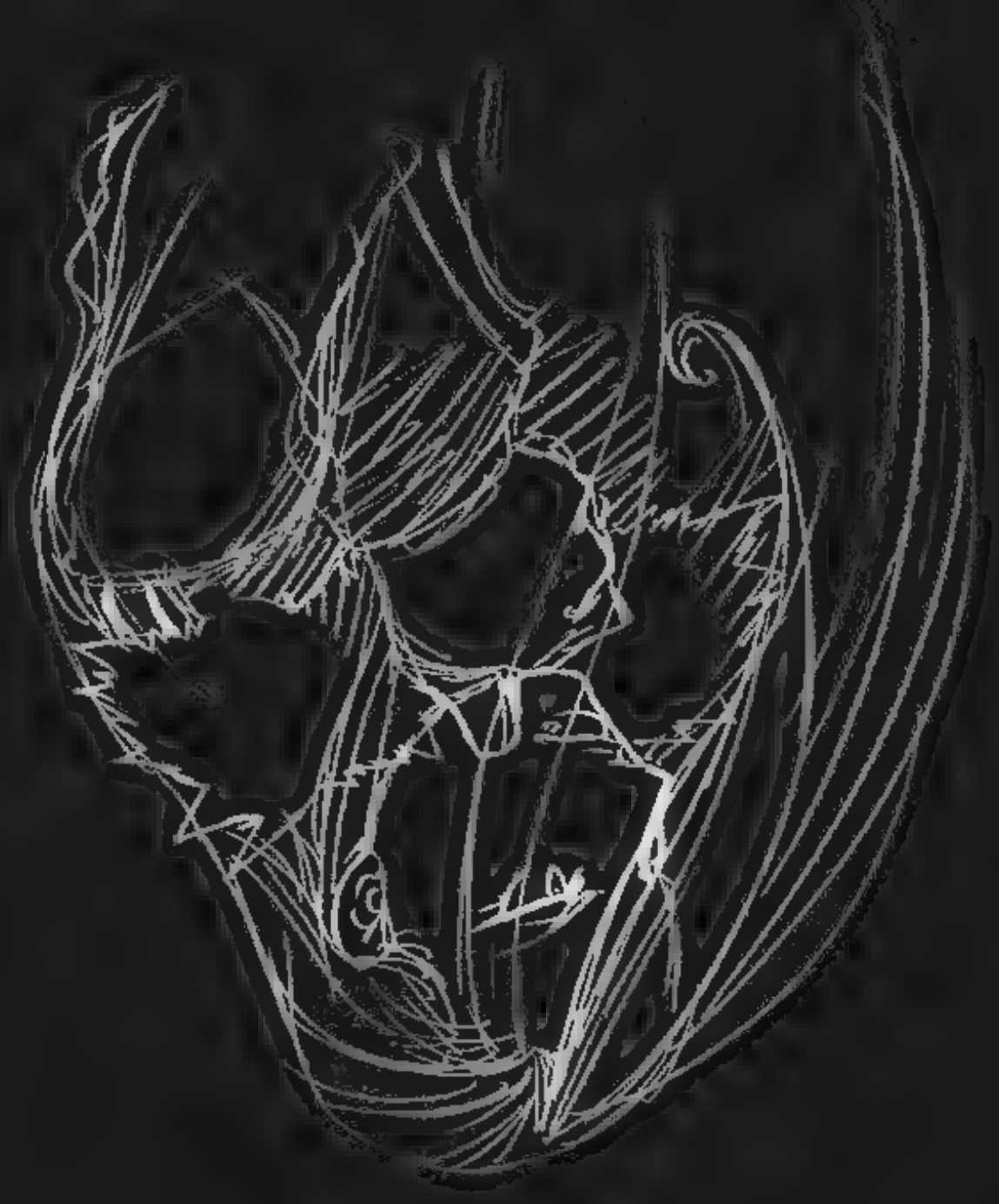
DRIP

SPLOOSH

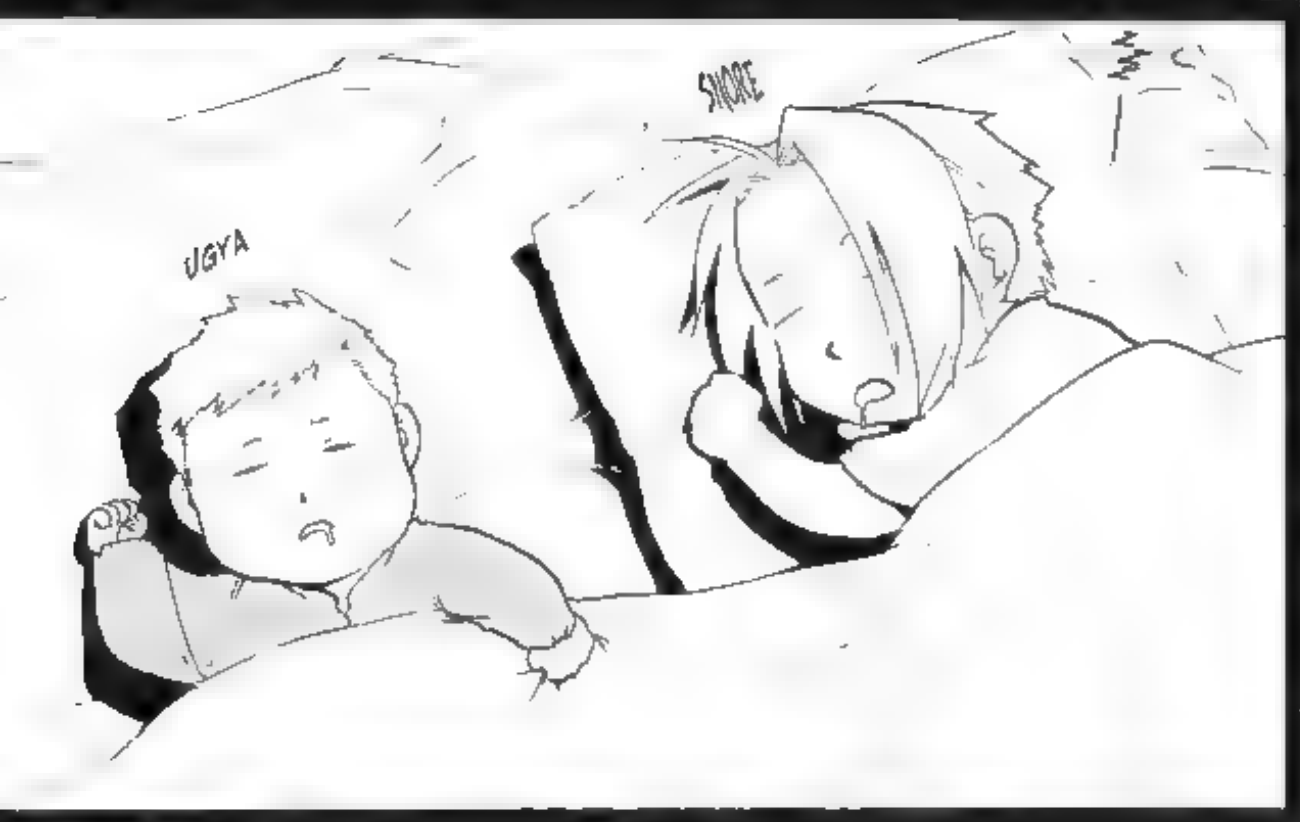
SPLOOSH

VOOP

VOOP



FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST


SHOOT
UGYA

WHY DO YOU HOLD BACK?

THEY ARE YOUR SONS, AFTER ALL.

YOU'RE ALLOWED TO TOUCH THEM, YOU KNOW.

I DON'T WANT TO TURN THEM INTO MONSTERS LIKE ME.

SKRCH SKRCH

IF THAT WAS ALL IT TOOK TO INFECT SOMEONE, THEN I WOULD'VE BEEN INFECTED A LONG TIME AGO.

SHEESH.

HONEY!

TRISHA, EVER SINCE I ACQUIRED THIS BODY, I'VE SEEN SO MUCH DEATH.

DON'T BE SILLY.

I TEMPERED MY SORROW BY TELLING MYSELF THAT IT WAS ALL A PART OF THE GREATER FLOW OF THIS UNIVERSE.

I'VE WATCHED IN SILENCE AS HUMANITY REPEATS THE SAME MISTAKES OVER AND OVER, NEVER LEARNING THE LESSONS OF HISTORY.

I'VE SEEN MY CLOSEST FRIENDS GROW OLD AND DIE IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE. FAMILIAR PLACES HAVE BEEN RENDERED UNRECOGNIZABLE BY THE PASSAGE OF TIME.

EACH FRESH ENCOUNTER MADE ME GLAD THAT I HAD ACQUIRED THIS BODY AND LIVED ON.

THERE WERE STILL MANY BEAUTIFUL AND MYSTERIOUS THINGS IN THE WORLD THAT I HADN'T SEEN.

..TRISHA...

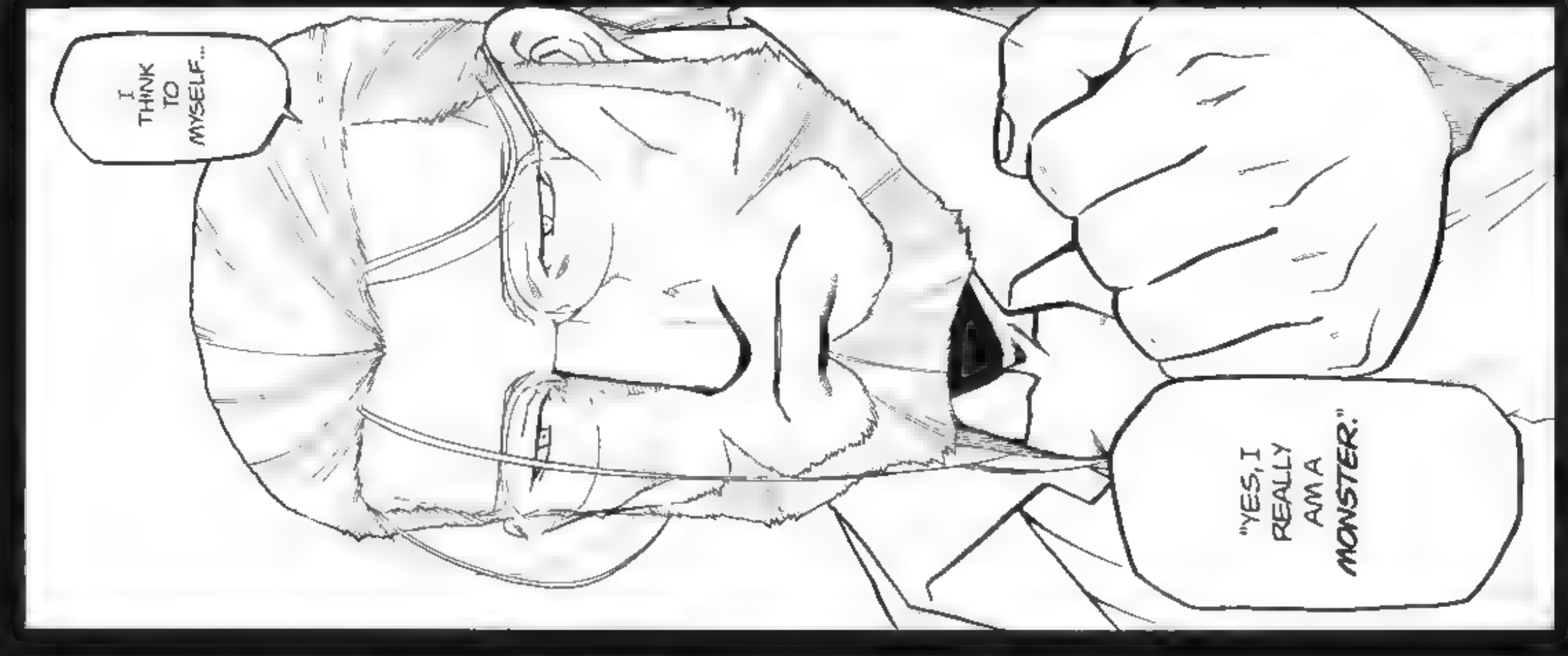
...UNTIL... I MET YOU, AND THESE CHILDREN WERE BORN.

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.

SUD-DENLY...

...I'M ***TERRI-FIED.***

I NEVER GET OLDER, YET MY SONS, WHO SHARE MY BLOOD, CONTINUE TO AGE AND GROW.



Chapter 68: Portrait of a Family

TMP TMP TMP

THIS WAY, OKAY?

WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.

WHAT IS IT?

CMERE CMERE

"

HONEY!

HONEY, COME HERE FOR A SECOND!

A PHO-TOG-RA-PHER?

HERE'S YOUR NECK-TIE! STRAIGHT-EN UP!

GOOD DAY, SIR.

NO TIME LIKE...

...THE PRE-SENT !

WE'VE NEVER TAKEN A PHOTO OF OUR FAMILY.

ARE YOU LIS-TEN-ING...?

TUG

HEY !

NOW? ALL OF A SUD-DEN?

TUG

NECO

HEY, TRISHA.

LINE UP, PLEASE.

I'M ALL SET.

HERE, HOLD ED.

WHAT SHOULD I...? UH...

HUH ?

OH.

BEAM

ONE DAY, I'LL BE A WRINKLY OLD LADY WHO LOOKS LIKE A MONSTER MYSELF.

OKAY, PLEASE FACE THIS WAY AND DON'T MOVE.

...NO MATTER WHAT I LOOK LIKE, I WANT TO ALWAYS BE ABLE TO SMILE AND TAKE A PHOTO WITH ALL OF US.

BUT...

DON'T ISOLATE YOURSELF AND BECOME DISTANT.

SO PLEASE... STAY A PART OF THIS FAMILY.

AND PLEASE DON'T HURT YOURSELF WITH LABELS LIKE "MONSTER."

HONEY..

OKAY, HERE WE GO.

SMILE !

CLIK

IT WAS MY OWN FOOLISHNESS THAT TRANSFORMED MY BODY INTO THIS.

...AND FULLY INTENDED TO LIVE ON AS LONG AS IT KEPT GOING.

THAT'S WHY I ACCEPTED MY FATE...

BUT NOW, THAT'S ALL CHANGED.

TRISHA AND THE CHILDREN...

CRUMP

NORTH AREA

I WANT TO GROW OLD WITH THEM... AND EVEN DIE.

SKRICH SKRICH

SLAM

I SUPPOSE IT'S THE ONLY WAY.

BAM

THAT BASTARD...

TUG

ALL SET !

CHEEP CHEEP

THERE ..

OOPS

SLIP

THAT SHOULD HOLD FOR A WHILE.

GOOD.

THIS IS A FIRST !

RE PAIRING THE SWING.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?

OH MY !

TRI-SHA.

YES ?

I'M...

..LEAV-ING.

WELL, I'VE BEEN SO DEVOTED TO MY RESEARCH THAT I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING FOR THE KIDS LATELY.

IT'S THE LEAST I COULD DO.

WILL YOU WAIT FOR ME?

I WILL.

UH-HUH.

ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT ME TO WAKE THEM?

OKAY.

DON'T TELL THE CHILDREN ABOUT... MY BODY.

PIT PAT

IT'S OKAY TO CRY, SILLY.

IF I SEE THEIR FACES... I MIGHT CRY.

WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING UP SO EARLY?

AH...

YAWN

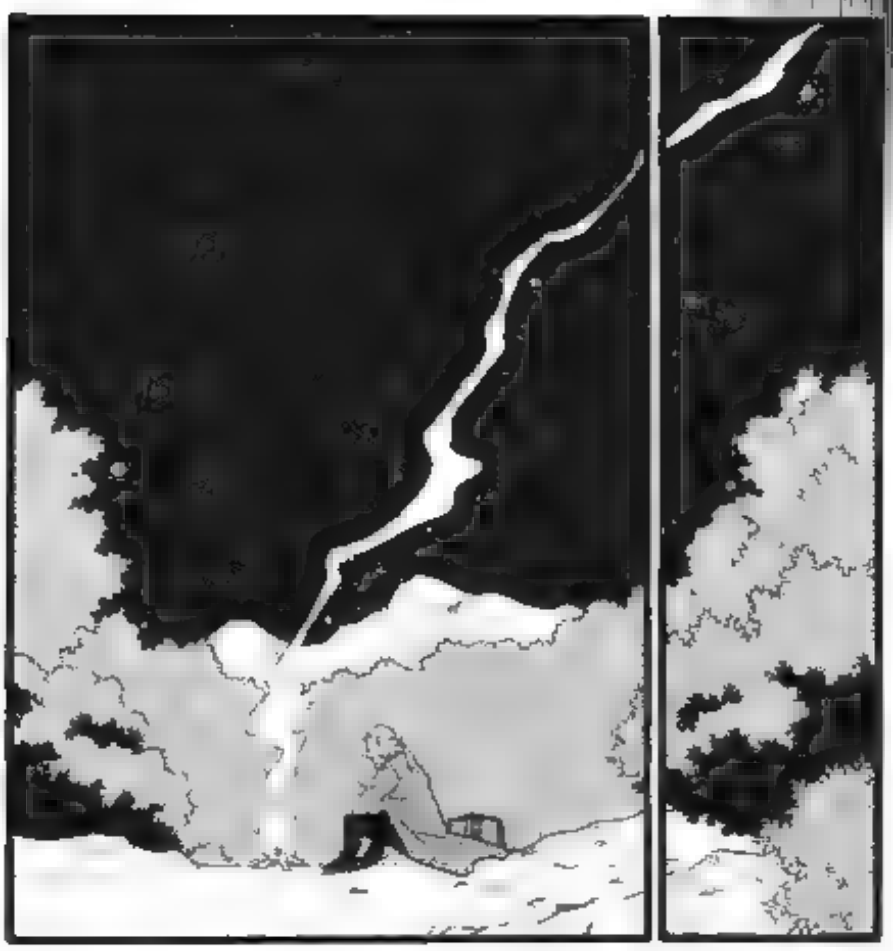
AL HADDA GO PEE.

OH, SO YOU WERE LOOKING AFTER AL?

UH-HUH

THANK YOU, ED.

BRIGHT!
TOO BRIGHT
GOOD-BYE.
KREEEEAK



POP

SLAM

JUST A LITTLE LONGER...

BWOOOOOOO

NO GOOD, SIR. THERE'S NO SIGNAL.

WELL?

WHAT NOW? SHOULD WE KEEP GOING, SIR?

WE HAVE CAMPING GEAR.

DAMN. WE CAN'T EVEN COMMUN-ICATE WITH THE BASE ABOVE.

YES, SIR.

SMITH- YOU REPORT BACK TO BASE.

LET'S GO A LITTLE FUR-THER.

HM..

THERE'S A RAIL FOR A MINING CART SO THERE MUST BE AN EXIT TO REMOVE THE RUBBLE.

OR POS-SIBLY A VENTI-LATION SHAFT.

TAP

LET'S GO.

SNORT

WHAT'S THE MATTER, GIRL?

WHAT IS IT, SIR?

CHAK

NEIGH NEIGH

...

STAND YOUR GROUND!

ZU

ZU

ZU

ZU

ZU

ZU

ZU

ZU

ZLCOP

ZLCOP

ZLOOP
ZLOOP
AAGH!!
ZAV
OOSH
...!!!

ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
GIII!
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
GYAA
AAH
!!
ZU
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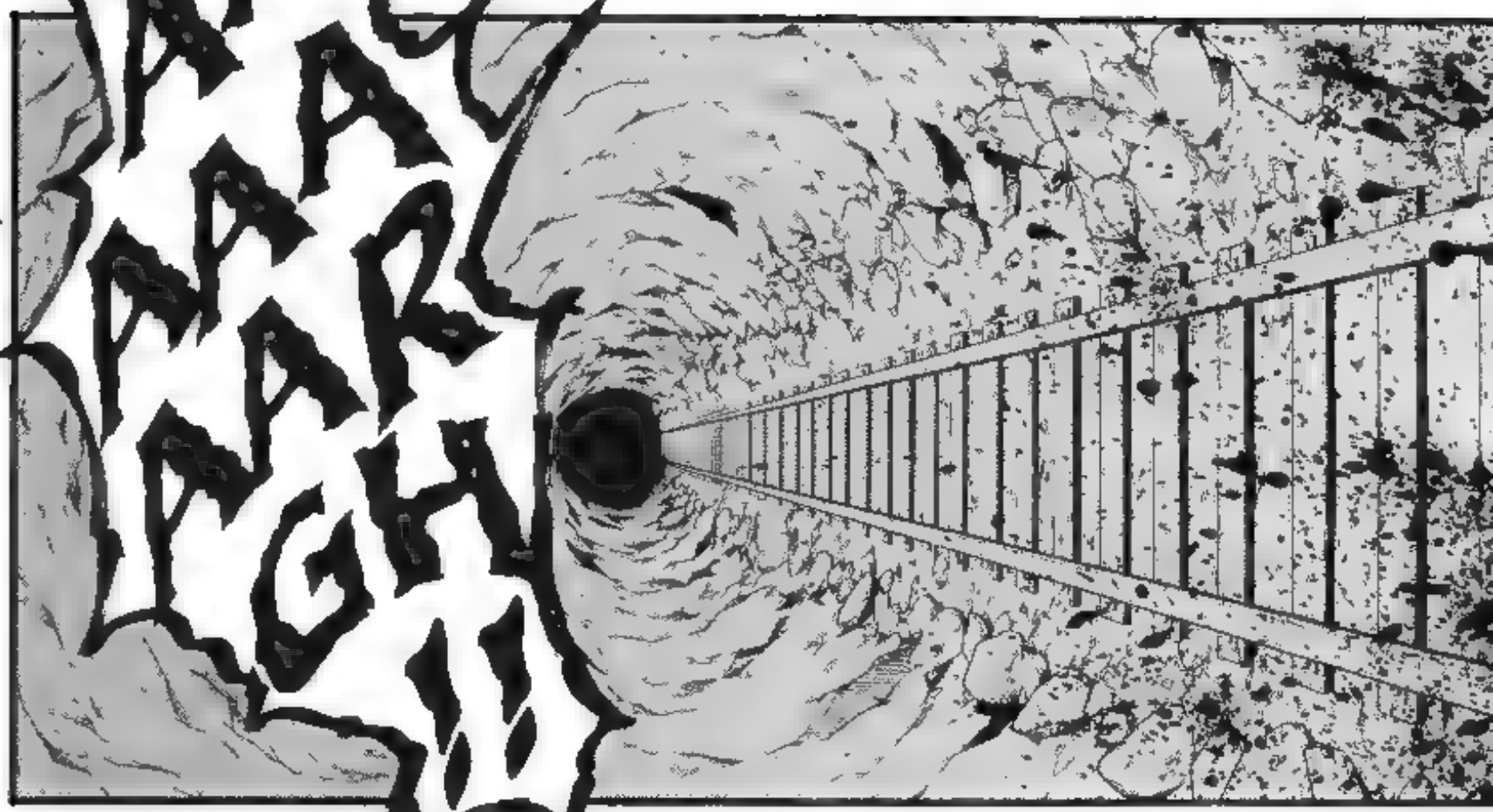
ZU
AAAA
A
ZU
HUH
?!
ZU
ZLOOP
ZU
AAAAAA
ZLOOSH

BAHAMUT



CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
HM ?!

SOME THING'S WRONG
CLOP
CLOP
THE SCOUT ING PARTY HAS RE- TURNED !
..NO.
CHAK

CLOP CLOP CLOP

WHOA !!

NEEIGH!!

...

NEEIGH

WATCH OUT !

SNORT

SNORT

WHAT COULD HAVE DONE THIS...?

SOME-THING SPOOK ED HER!

BUT...

RAVEN TOOK THE BAIT...

HE BOUGHT IT QUICKER THAN I EXPECTED.

OR IS HE REALLY THAT STUPID ?

IS THIS SOME KIND OF PLOY... ?

I CAN SEE YOU'RE TEMPT-ED...

SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK ?

I'LL JUST PLAY IT COOL AND SEE HOW MUCH MORE HE LETS SLIP...

THEY NEITHER DIE NOR DECAY.

IMAGINE... A COMPLETELY IMMORTAL ARMY!

HM ?

IT'S JUST THAT...YOUR QUESTION IS SO *UNUSUAL*. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO RESPOND.

HEH.

EITHER YOU'RE IN OR YOU AREN'T.

GRIN

THERE ARE ONLY TWO CHOICES.

I WANT TO CUT HIM...

...TO SHREDS!!

HE'S FORCING THE ISSUE...

YOUR EYES AREN'T SMILING, RAVEN.

YOUR OFFER IS... *INTRIGUING.*

BUT... I NEED MORE DETAILS.

SLIDE

HE'S IN A RUSH.

...IS HE RUNNING OUT OF TIME?

AS APPEALING AS YOUR SUGGESTION SOUNDS, I MUST CONSIDER THE WELFARE OF MY MEN. WHEN THE DAY COMES THAT IMMORTALITY IS NO LONGER A DREAM, WILL ALL THE SOLDIERS AT FORT BRIGGS BENEFIT, OR JUST ME?

GRIN

GRIN

IF I GO ALONG WITH THIS, THEY'LL FORCE ME TO AID THEM IN THEIR UNWHOLESOME SCHEMES HERE AT BRIGGS...

...AND IF I **DON'T** GO ALONG, THEY'LL HAVE NO MORE USE FOR ME AND I'LL MOST LIKELY BE DEMOTED.

THEY MUST HAVE PLENTY OF OTHER **PAWNS** WHO COULD TAKE MY PLACE.

WHEN THAT DAY COMES...

YES.

MEANING HE WON'T MAKE ANY GUARANTEES UNTIL THAT DAY COMES.

WON-DER-FUL.

BAM BAM BAM

NOW WHAT WOULD BE THE BEST ANSWER TO GIVE HIM...?

IT'S ABOUT THE TUN-NEL -

SORRY TO INTER-RUPT, SIR. IT'S AN EMER-GENCY !

WHAT IS IT?

BAM BAM

...EX-CUSE ME.

WHAT ABOUT THE TUNNEL ?

...OH

THE SCOUTS WE SENT INTO THE TUNNEL— SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO THEM!

!!

WELL, SOL DIER, SPEAK UP.

VERY WELL...

HUH?

GENERAL RAVEN, WOULD YOU CARE TO JOIN ME IN MY INVESTI-GATION?

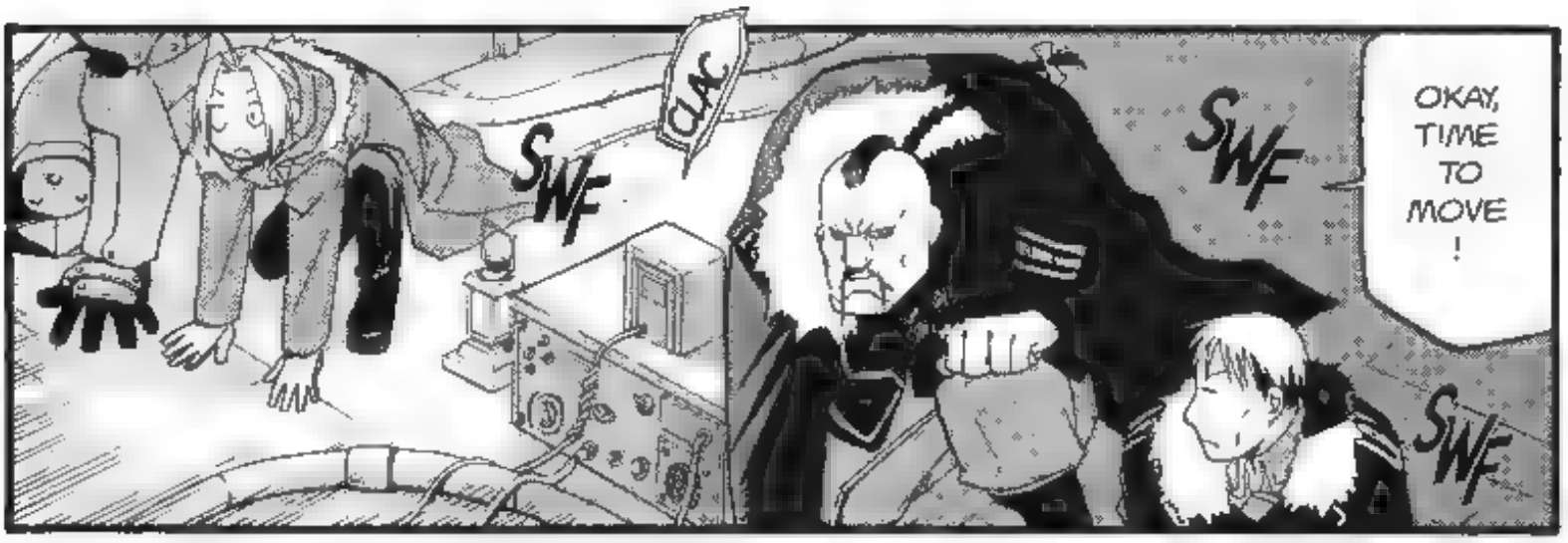
OH, YES... OF COURSE.

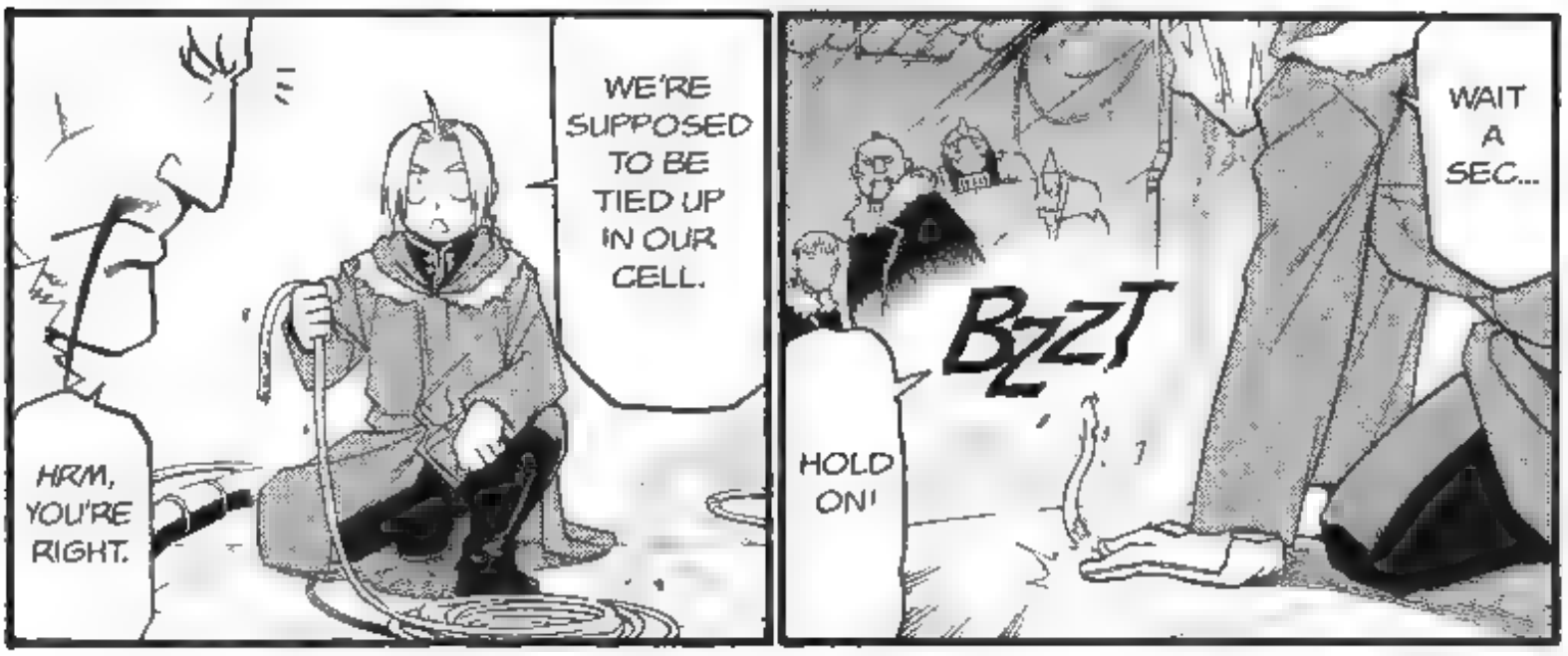
STRIDE

THE TUNNEL BE NEATH THE BASE, COR-RECT?

I'LL GO IMMED-IATELY.

UNDER-STOOD.


CLAC
SWF
SWF
SWF
OKAY, TIME TO MOVE!


WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE TIED UP IN OUR CELL.
HRM, YOU'RE RIGHT.
WAIT A SEC...
BZZT
HOLD ON!

OW OW OW!!! DO YOU HAVE A GRUDGE AGAINST ME OR SOMETHING, WARRANT OFFICER FALMAN?!!
I'M A 2ND LT NOW
SURE, NO PROB-LEM.
YANK
HE'LL BE SUSPICIOUS IF THEY'RE TOO LOOSE, SO TIE THEM NICE AND--
THAT'S TRUE
THE ROPES NEED TO BE REALLY T GHT, BIG BROTHER.

KLANG KLANG KLANG
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK

KLAK
KLAK
KLAK

SIR!
I'VE BEEN ORDERED TO TRANSFER THE ELRIC BROTHERS FROM THE EASTERN CELLS TO THE WESTERN CELLS, SIR.
IT SEEMS A BIT SEVERE
WHAT'S ALL THIS, BUCCANEER?

THE ELRIC BROTHERS? THEN THAT MEANS...
...YOU MUST BE THE FULL-METAL ALCHEMIST.

SOLF J. KIMBLEE.
GENERAL RAVEN'S GUEST.
AND THIS GENTLEMAN IS...?

THE RED LOTUS ALCHEMIST...
KIMBLEE...

LIKE WE HAVEN'T HEARD THIS GAG A HUNDRED TIMES BEFORE...

OH...

THIS ONE.

I SEE. YOU FIT YOUR ALIAS PER-FECTLY...

...HEY.

NICE TO MEET YOU...

..MR. FULL-METAL ALCHE-MIST.

MA-JOR GEN ERAL !

HEN-SCHEL.

KLAK KLAK KLAK

CHATTER

CHATTER

CHATTER.

CHATTER

CHATTER

CHATTER

KLAK

NOW, WHAT'S OUR SITUATION?

KLAK

THAT'S FINE. IT'S AN EMERGENCY.

KLAK

I'M SORRY, SIR. I MOVED THE UNIT WITHOUT YOUR ORDERS.

NOT LONG AGO SMITH'S HORSE RETURNED...

ANY WORD FROM THEM?

THEY TOOK A RADIO, BUT WE HAVEN'T RECEIVED A CALL.

SOMETHING HAPPENED TO THE SCOUTS WE SENT TO INVESTIGATE THE TUNNEL.

THE ARM APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SEVERED WITH SOME KIND OF SHARP BLADE.

THE HORSE IS SO SPOOKED THAT HE'S OUT OF CONTROL.

NEEEIGH!

WHAT ABOUT THE BODY?

JUST HIS ARM?

UN-KNOWN SIR.

..BUT THE ONLY SIGN OF SMITH WAS...HIS *ARM*.

WE COULD PUT TOGETHER ANOTHER SQUAD TO INVESTIGATE, BUT FOR ALL WE KNOW, WE'D BE SENDING THEM INTO A DEATHTRAP.

IMPOS-SIBLE TO SAY, SIR.

WHAT KIND OF A THREAT ARE WE DEALING WITH, HEN-SCHEL?

THIS WON'T DO AT ALL.

A HOLE THIS DANG-EROUS MUST BE CLOSED UP.

THIS WON'T DO, MAJOR GENERAL ARM-STRONG.

...

GWON

GWON

GWON

GWON

GWON

WHAT DID YOU DO WITH THAT IMMORTAL BIOLOGICAL WEAPON THAT YOU SPOKE OF?

PUT IT BACK IN THE HOLE AND SEAL OFF THE ENTRANCE, MAJOR GENERAL.

BYOOO

I'M SPEAKING TO THE MAJOR GENERAL.

I DON'T NEED TO EXPLAIN MYSELF TO SUBORD-INATES.

BUT WE CAN'T JUST -

THE *AUTHOR-ITIES* RULE?

ISN'T THAT THE *LAW* HERE?

OBEY AUTHORITY, MAJOR GENERAL ARM-STRONG.

CONTINUE TO OBEY RAVEN'S ORDERS.

...HM.

...IS THAT SO?

I MET THE SO-CALLED FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST.

OH, I AL MOST FOR-GOT.

NICE TO HEAR THAT, SIR.

I GUAR-ANTEE THAT YOU WILL BE GRANTED AUTHORITY IN GOOD TIME.

DON'T WORRY.

DID FULLMETAL TRAVEL NORTH UNDER YOUR ORDERS?

IT APPEARS THEY'RE HOLDING HIM IN THE BRIG BECAUSE HE WON'T REVEAL ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THE "MYSTERIOUS BIOLOGICAL WEAPON."

I DO KNOW THAT HE'S RESEARCHING THE ALCHEMY OF XING.

OH. SO YOU HAVEN'T KEPT TRACK OF THE WHERE-ABOUTS OF OUR MOST VALUABLE HUMAN ASSET, SIR?

NO, I WASN'T AWARE THAT HE WAS IN THE NORTH.

SO HE'S IN BRIGGS OF ALL PLACES.

I SEE...

I HAVE ONE NAIL IN HIS COFFIN ALREADY— NOW I'LL POUND IN ANOTHER ONE.

WELL THEN..

CLAK

GOT IT!

I'M COM-ING.

ATELIER Garfiel

BRRRRING BRRRRING

BRRRRING

BRRRRING

..YES ?

CLIK

HELLO, THANK YOU FOR CALLING GARFIEL STUDIO.

YES SHE IS...

CARBON FIBER

WINRY

I'D PREFER...

IT'S SOME-ONE FROM THE MILITARY !

COMING !

WINRY, TELE-PHONE !

...THE MILITARY ?

...EVEN CUTS THOSE HARD-TO-REACH UPPER BRANCHES.

FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

GLARE

I BET THE ELRIC BRO-THERS ARE INVOLVED, AREN'T THEY?

THAT ***THING*** IS A BIO-LOGICAL WEAPON FROM DRACHMA, ISN'T IT, SIR?

YES, SIR. HE SEEMED A BIT SUSPI-CIOUS.

CLAIMED HE CAME HERE FOR "RE-SEARCH"— NOT THAT I BUY IT

FULL-METAL...?

GLARE

GLARE

TAKE THEM BACK TO CENTRAL CITY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!!

THEY'RE DRACH-MA'S SPIES, SIR!!

GLARE

THEY DEFINITELY KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THAT MONSTER.

THEY WOULDN'T TELL US ANYTHING. MAYBE A FEW DAYS IN THAT CELL WILL LOOSEN THEM UP.

KLANG

Chapter 69
The Foundation of Briggs

FULLMETAL
ALCHEMIST

"THIS INVOLVES MORE THAN A PORTION OF HIGH COMMAND EVERYONE IS GUILTY"

...HELLO.

I'M RAVEN, FROM CENTRAL COM-MAND.

THE PRES-IDENT HAS TOLD ME A LOT ABOUT YOU...

SHOO SHOO

I GAVE THE PRES-IDENT MY PROM-ISE.

IT APPEARS YOU HAVEN'T DIVULGED ANYTHING TO THESE BRIGGS PEOPLE YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE.

YOU SEEM UN-HAPPY.

OF COURSE I AM! BEING HELD PRISONER LIKE THIS— IT WOULD BE STRANGE IF I *WASN'T* A LITTLE UNHAPPY, SIR.

GRMBL

WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO DO IS FOR THE GOOD OF THIS COUN-TRY...

NO, THE *ENTIRE WORLD.*

YOU SHOULD BE PROUD OF PLAYING A PART IN THIS GREAT PLAN.

YOU'RE A CHILD, SO I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO UNDER-STAND...

...BUT YOU MUST TRY TO SEE THE *BIG PICTURE.*

I KNOW THAT RIGHT NOW YOU FEEL AS IF YOU'RE BEING TREATED UNFAIRLY...

...BUT THERE WILL COME A TIME WHEN YOU'LL *THANK* US!

AS WILL EVERYONE IN THIS FORT.

BECAUSE IF THEY OBEY US NOW, A BRIGHT FUTURE AWAITS THEM.

THE AGREEMENT WAS THAT WE'D BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE OUR JOURNEY IF WE DIDN'T GET IN YOUR WAY, WASN'T IT, SIR?

PATIENCE, LAD. I'LL LET YOU OUT SOON ENOUGH, DON'T YOU WORRY.

UM...

WHEN ARE WE GOING TO GET LET OUT OF THIS CELL?

THAT'S NOT A PROB-LEM EITHER.

IF EVERY-ONE REALI-ZED WHAT IT—

ISN'T THAT A PART OF YOUR PLAN TOO?

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THE HOLE, SIR?

MAJOR GENERAL ARMSTRONG IS GOING TO PUT THE HOMUNCULUS BACK IN THE TUNNEL AND SEAL IT UP EXACTLY AS BEFORE.

...!!

THE MAJOR GENERAL HAS JOINED OUR SIDE.

GWOOON
GWOOON
KLANG
KLANG
IN A FEW DAYS, IT WILL BE AS IF THE WHOLE INCIDENT NEVER HAPPENED.
AS WE SPEAK, SHE IS OVER-SEEING THE CON-STRUCTION TO SEAL UP THE HOLE.
BE QUIET, HEN-SCHEL.
WHAT ABOUT THE SCOUTING PARTY?! ARE YOU GOING TO JUST GIVE UP ON THEM?!
GWOOON
KLATA
SIR, HAVE YOU GONE MAD?! WHY WOULD YOU OBEY LT. GENERAL RAVEN'S ORDERS ?!
I SAID, ***BE QUIET*** !
THEY MIGHT BE WAITING FOR OUR HELP!!
EXCUSE ME SIR, BUT... WHAT IF THEY'RE STILL ALIVE?
GWOOON
KLANG
KLATA
JUST SHUT UP AND FOLLOW ORDERS !

OBEY AUTHOR-ITY, HM?

AFTER ALL, THAT IS THE SMART THING TO DO.

IT APPEARS THAT EVEN THE IMMOVABLE "NORTH WALL OF BRIGGS" BENDS TO HIGHER AUTHORITY.

VM VM VM

DING

GACHAN

VRM VRM VRM VRM VRM VRM VRM

VRM VRM VRM

SLOG...

TWITCH

SO..

THERE HE IS...

HEAVE

WHOA !!

HUH ?

HUH ?

DON'T WORRY. LET ME HANDLE THIS.

KRAK KRAK

UH...

PHUUL

WHAT ... ?

UH OH...

CHATTER CHATTER

NOW, NOW. YOU HAVE MORE **WORK** TO DO.

STILL...

...SLEEPY.

WHO ARE YOU?

GOOD MORNING, **SLOTH.**

DID YOU SLEEP WELL ?

YOU MUST FINISH YOUR WORK.

REMEMBER WHAT *PRIDE* TOLD YOU?

PRIDE ?

HUH ?

LURCH

KA THUD

GOT NO CHOICE.

DON'T WANT TO.

BUT...

...MCK...

...TO...

...WORK.

SLOG SLOG SLOG

KRAK

...MM.

TOO MUCH..

RMBL...

SEEZ

DIG DIG DIG

TOO MUCH EFFORT...

...TO REMEMBER.

FORGET IT

..TOO MUCH...

...AGAIN ?

WHAT WAS...

OHH.

TOO MUCH.

WHO IS WORKING TO MAKE THIS COUNTRY EVEN *STRONGER.*

BUT..ALL OF THIS IS STILL *TOP SECRET.*

THAT'S NOT A SPY FROM DRACH-MA.

YOU NEEDN'T WORRY.

IT'S A *CHI-MERA.*

IT WORKS FOR CENTRAL CITY'S MILI-TARY...

I HAVE DEMONSTRATED MY TRUST IN YOU BY LETTING YOU IN ON THIS GREAT SECRET.

I CONSIDER ALL OF YOU MY COMRADES.

SOLDIERS OF BRIGGS.

NOW LET'S GET THIS HOLE CLOSED UP AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

HYOOO O

HMM...

I STILL CAN'T READ IT.

OOOOOOOOO

NO LUCK YET?

NO.

I CAN'T MAKE HEADS OR TAILS OF THIS SECTION.

I GUESS YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO GIVE UP.

IF I CAN'T EVEN READ THE WORDS, HOW CAN I HOPE TO BEGIN DECIPHERING ITS MEANING?

ALL OF THE IMPORTANT PARTS ARE WRITTEN IN *ANCIENT ISHBALAN* SO THAT THE AVERAGE PERSON CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT.

IT'S BEEN A WEEK AND HE STILL HASN'T COME...

I WONDER IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO MR. SCAR..

IF SCAR WAS HERE HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO READ IT.

HE'S A FORMER ISHBALAN PRIEST— THERE'S A CHANCE THAT HE KNOWS THE ANCIENT LANGUAGE.

NGH!
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO.

THAT'S THE GIRL WITH THE BLACK AND-WHITE CAT
WE'VE FOUND THEM, SIR.

SLUMP

HUH...?
WUMP

WHAK
AGH!

MR. SCAR!
MR. YOKI!
KLATA
!

HURRY!
O...
OKAY!

YES WE DID!
DID YOU FIND THE RESEARCH NOTES?

EH?
THE BRIGGS TROOPS HAVE CAUGHT ON. THEY KNOW ABOUT THIS PLACE.
WE HAVE TO MOVE.

GWOOON
GWOOON
GWOOON
GWOOON
GOOD.
GWOOON
GWOOON
GWOOON
IT'S TAKING A LONG TIME TO DRY.
STAND SOME BACK!
HIS NAME WAS... SMITH, WAS IT?
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT YOUR SCOUTS...
REST ASSURED, THEY ARE BUT A SMALL SACRIFICE TO ACHIEVE OUR GOAL.
WHEN THIS COUNTRY IS RAISED TO EVEN GREATER HEIGHTS THROUGH OUR EFFORTS...
...YOU'LL REAL ZE THAT THEIR LIVES WERE NOT SPENT IN VA N.
GWOOON
WE, THE CHOSEN ONES, WILL RECEIVE GODLIKE BODIES AND ***RULE THIS WORLD.***

SO THE COMMON PEOPLE ARE TO BE SACRIFICED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CHOSEN ONES?

YES. IT'S ***SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST.***

THE WEAK AND FOOLISH WILL BECOME THE FOUNDATION FOR A NEW AMESTRIS...

...AND ON THEIR BACKS, THE POWERFUL WILL PROSPER.

EVERYTHING WENT AS WE INTENDED.

GRIN

INCLUDING THAT SO-CALLED "CIVIL WAR."

YES. THAT WAS A PART OF OUR PLAN.

THEIR WEAK RACE WAS DESTINED TO PERISH ANYWAY.

AND THE ISHBALANS— THEY WERE EXPENDABLE, TOO?

KICK

IS THAT SO...? OH, I CAN TAKE CARE OF THAT, SIR.

T·D

YES. ALL RIGHT.

KLAK

KLAK

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.

NOW, WHERE IS LT. GENERAL RAVEN?

I NEED TO SPEAK WITH HIM ABOUT—

I'M HERE ON BUSINESS, MAJOR. JUST REPORTING IN.

YOU'RE REALLY FOND OF THAT PHONE, AREN'T YOU?

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

WHAT *MAGIC* DID YOU USE?

WHEN I FIRST SAW YOU, YOU WERE CLOSE TO DEATH, SUFFERING FROM SEVERE WOUNDS. YET YOU'VE MADE A FULL RECOVERY WITHIN THE DAY AND SHOWED UP HERE...

...WITH LT. GEN-ERAL RAVEN.

JUST TAKE ME TO LT. GENERAL RAVEN.

THAT DOESN'T CONCERN YOU.

GWOOON

GWOOON

WAIT. I'M NOT THROUGH ASKING QUES-TIONS.

HOW IS IT THAT YOU WERE SUDDENLY RELEASED, EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE IMPRISONED FOR KILLING AN OFFICER?

LIKE I SAID, AL-READY...

IT DOESN'T CONCERN YOU.

GWOOON

GWOOON

MY, MY. HOW GRAND.

YES. AND NOW IT'S FINALLY COMING TO FRUI-TION!

WHEN WAS THIS PLAN MADE?

I'VE HEARD THAT IT EXISTED EVEN BEFORE THIS COUNTRY WAS FOUNDED.

GWOOON GWOOON

NOW I SEE...

HE WAS ACTING SO DESPERATE BECAUSE TIME'S RUNNING OUT.

SO WE CAN'T LET SLOTH REST.

THIS PLAN WILL FINALLY BE COMPLETED IN THE LIFETIME OF OUR GENERATION.

I'LL SPEAK WITH MY SUPERIORS ABOUT GIVING YOU A SEAT IN THE HIGH COMMAND.

PAT

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION, MAJOR GENERAL ARMSTRONG.

WHAT?

THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO GIVE ME A CHAIR.

GROPE

WAS IT SMITH'S LEFT ARM, SIR?

OR WAS IT HIS RIGHT ?

GUSH

AAAH!!

LONG AGO IN YOUR YOUTH, PERHAPS YOU TOO WERE AN HONORABLE SOLDIER WHO TRULY CARED ABOUT THIS COUNTRY.

GROWING OLD TRULY IS A TERRIBLE THING, ISN'T IT, LT. GENERAL RAVEN?

YOU COULD BE ONE OF THE ***CHOSEN ONES*** !!

I'LL GIVE YOU A CHAIR IN THE HIGH COM-MAND !!

W.. WHAT ARE YOU DOING, ARM-STRONG ?!!

WHY... ?

SHU NK

SLASH

YOU'RE...

..GIVING UP...

..IM-MORTAL-ITY...

...WHEN IT'S HERE...

..FOR THE TAK-ING...

I TOLD YOU...

I DON'T WANT YOUR CHAIR.

ANY CHAIR THAT WOULD SEAT YOUR ROTTEN ASS ISN'T FIT FOR ME TO CRAP ON...

...YOU WRINKLED BASTARD!

YOU SPOKE OF "FOUNDATIONS." WELL, YOU'RE ABOUT TO BECOME A PART OF BRIGG'S FOUNDATION, GENERAL RAVEN...

...LITERALLY.

IMMORTALITY...

IS IT WORTH BETRAYING YOUR COMRADES AND COUNTRYMEN FOR?

SPLAT

SWIP

CALL MILES.

YES, SIR.

BUC-CA-NEER!

SHINK

MA-JOR GEN-ERAL.

HM?

TOSS

THE REST OF YOU, CONTINUE YOUR WORK.

PLOP

GWOOON GWOOON GWOOON GWOOON

YES, SIR.

TUG

FIX THE CON-CRETE.

MAKE SURE IT'S NICE AND SMOOTH.

SIR, IF WE SEAL UP THE HOLE COMPLETELY, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO CLIMB DOWN!!

KLAK KLAK KLAK KLAK

WAIT A SECOND, MAJOR GENERAL !!

HEN-SCHEL...

KLAK KLAK KLAK

PLEASE, MAJOR GENERAL, CANCEL YOUR ORDERS TO SEAL UP THAT HOLE...

KLAK

WE CAN'T SEND A SEARCH PARTY AFTER SMITH AND THE OTHERS!

KLAK KLAK

?

PONK
//
PONK

WHAT'S THAT?

THANK FULLMETAL. HE MADE THIS DOOR FOR US IN CASE OF JUST SUCH AN EVENTUALITY AS THIS.

KIM-
BLEE
?

OH, AND SHE SAID HE GOT BETTER RIGHT AFTER ***GENERAL RAVEN*** CAME TO SEE HIM.

GEN-
ERAL
RAVEN
?

...AND THAT A RE-COVERY LIKE THAT IS UN-HEARD OF.

SHE SAID THAT HE WAS IN INTENSIVE CARE WITH SEVERE INJURIES BUT CHECKED OUT THE VERY NEXT DAY..

A FRIEND OF MY FRIEND WORKS AS A NURSE AT THE BASE OF MT. BRIGGS.

UH-
HUH.

RAVEN AND KIM-BLEE..? TO-GETHER?

UH-HUH. THAT OLD GUY CAME INTO OUR CLUB ONCE.

WHAT A PERV! REAL CONCEITED TOO.

YAY! ♡

NOW I CAN BUY THAT EVENING BAG I WANTED.

WANT A RIDE HOME?

HERE'S A LITTLE SOME-THING FOR YOU.

YOU'VE DONE GOOD, BABY.

THAT'S ALL I'VE GOT FOR YOU THIS WEEK.

DID YOU GET SHOT DOWN, YOUNG MAN?

I'M GONNA HANG OUT WITH MY FRIENDS.

NO, THAT'S ALL RIGHT.

HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON AT THE CLUB, ROY.

THE BEST WAY TO WOO WOMEN LIKE THAT IS WITH A BIG BUNCH OF FLOWERS.

UH-HUH.

NO THANKS.

DO YOU REALLY EXPECT A GUY WHO JUST GOT DUMPED TO WALK HOME ALONE CARRYING A BOUQUET OF FLOWERS?

HOW ABOUT A LOVELY BOU-QUET?

..ROY MUS-TANG.

I HAVE A MESSAGE FROM OLIVIER ARMSTRONG, THE NORTH WALL OF BRIGGS...

PISH TOSH, YOUNG MAN! THERE ARE OTHER FISH IN THE SEA!

SELL ME ALL THE FLOWERS IN YOUR CART.

INTER-ESTING...

YOU SEEM AWFULLY HOSTILE TOWARDS ME.

WHAT'S YOUR PROB-LEM?

...BE QUIET, KIM-BLEE.

PERHAPS YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW YOUR KINSMEN DIED?

A BRIBE?

AN APOL-OGY?

NO. A FELLOW LIKE YOU WOULDN'T BE APPEASED BY SOMETHING SO TRIVIAL.

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?

IS IT BECAUSE YOU'RE ISHBALAN AND I'M ONE OF THE STATE ALCHEMISTS WHO SLAUGHTERED YOUR PEOPLE IN THE WAR?

I SAID, SHUT UP!!

BECAUSE IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN I CAN TELL YOU *EVERY LAST DETAIL.*

HANGAR

..MAY I SPEAK TO YOU A MOMENT, SIR?

I HAVE A MESSAGE FROM MAJOR GENERAL ARM-STRONG

WHAT IS IT?

SHUT

CLAK

OH.

THERE YOU ARE, SIR.

"YOU CAN STOP BUYING US TIME."

WHSP

"MISSION COM-PLETE."

I WAS GROWING TIRED OF HIS CONVER-SATION ANYWAY.

GOOD. NOW I CAN STOP ENTER-TAINING OUR GUEST.

UNDER-STOOD.

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE HE MIGHT HAVE GONE?

LT. GENERAL RAVEN IS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.

SQUEE E

KIM-BLEE..

THIS IS BAD. THE FORTRESS IS NO PLACE FOR AN OUTSIDER TO GET LOST.

HANGAR

HE'S MISSING?

...FOR ME THAT WOULD BE MOST CONVENIENT.

IT WOULDN'T BE SO BAD. IN FACT...

IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO THE LT. GENERAL...

...BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT.

IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO RAVEN, I'M FREE TO ACT ACCORDING TO MY OWN DISCRETION..

COULD YOU PLEASE HAVE A CAR DRIVE ME DOWN TO THE BASE OF THE MOUNTAIN? I HAVE SOME BUSINESS THERE.

WELL...

..THEN.

NOW, THE CAR PLEASE

AS OF NOW, MY ACTIONS REPRESENT THE WILL OF THE PRESIDENT.

DO YOU UNDER-STAND ?

IRK IRK IRK IRK IRK

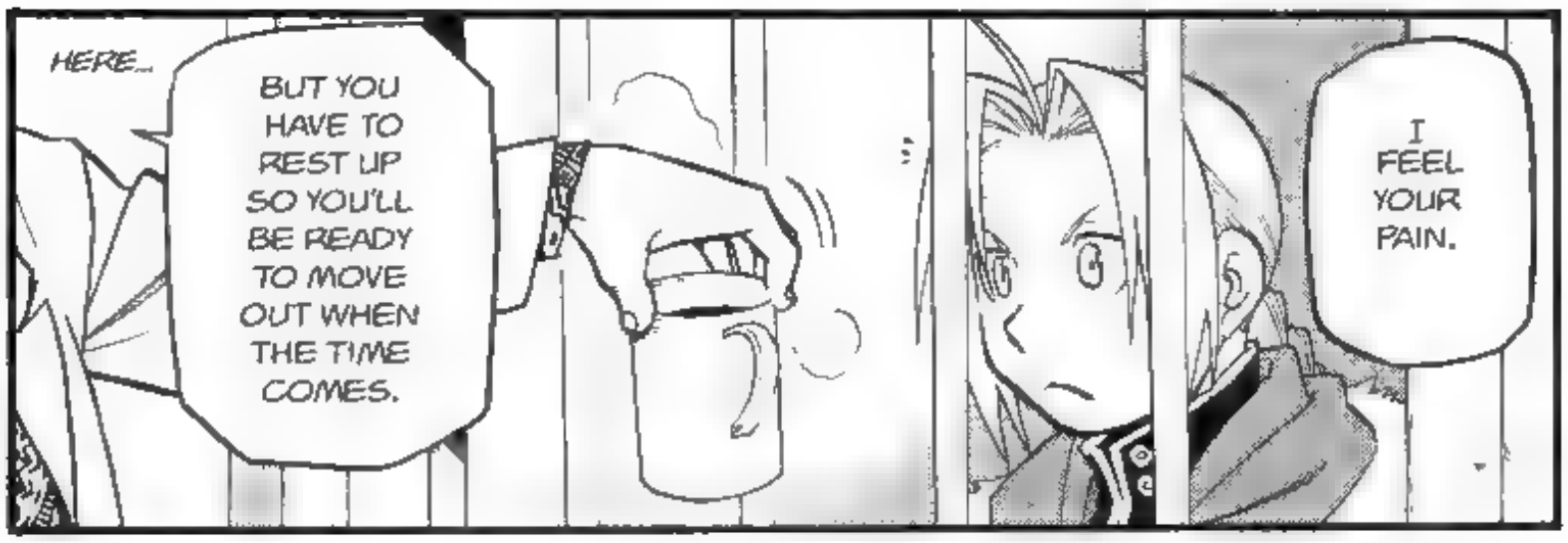
ANY NEWS OF THE SEARCH FOR THE GIRL AND THE BLACK-AND-WHITE CAT?

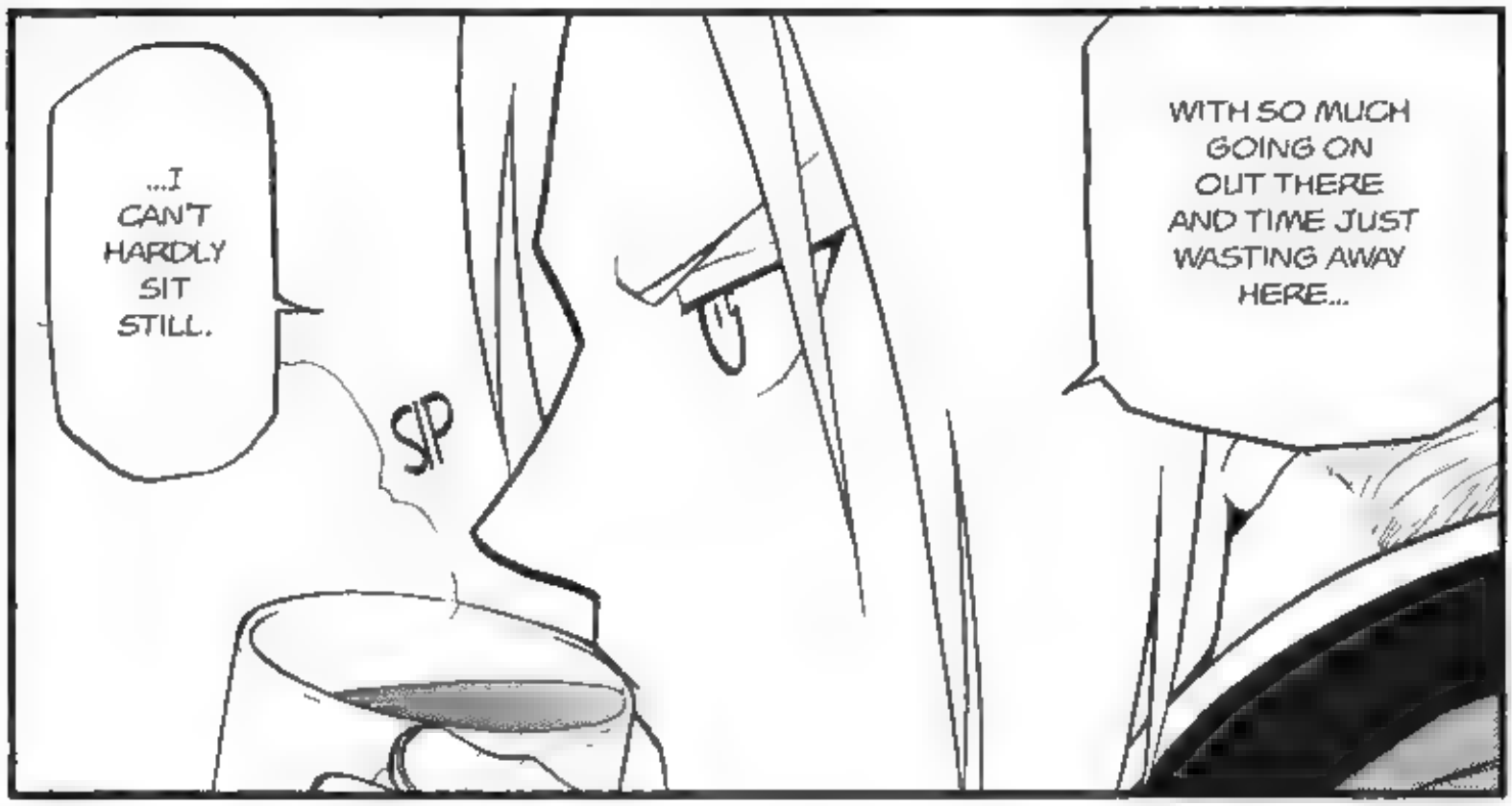
YEAH, THEY'RE STILL LOOKING FOR THEM.

DON'T WORRY.

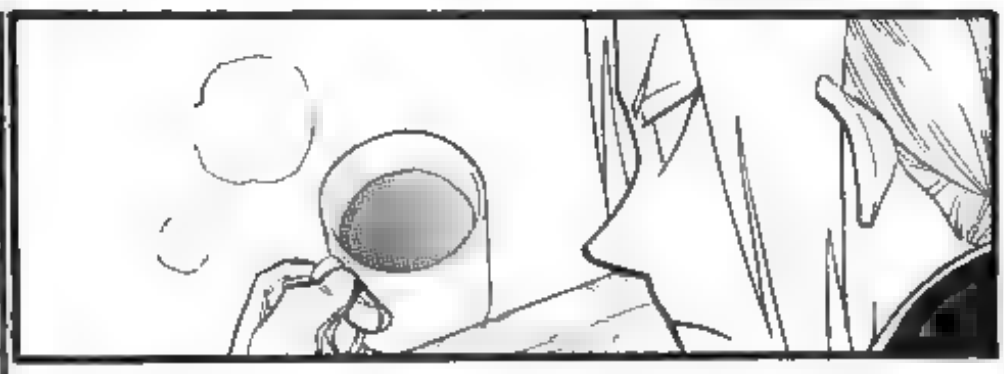
HEY, WHEN ARE WE GONNA GET LET OUT?

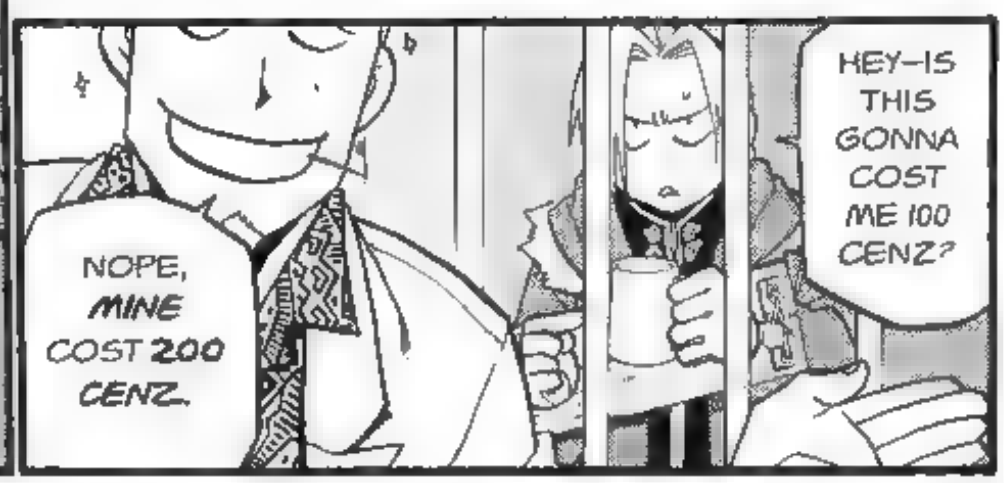
JUST A LITTLE LONGER NOW.


HERE...
BUT YOU HAVE TO REST UP SO YOU'LL BE READY TO MOVE OUT WHEN THE TIME COMES.
I FEEL YOUR PAIN.


...I CAN'T HARDLY SIT STILL.
SP
WITH SO MUCH GOING ON OUT THERE AND TIME JUST WASTING AWAY HERE...

KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
CHAK
NO WAY.
I WANT A RE-FUND.
SWIP




NOPE, MINE COST 200 CENZ.
HEY—IS THIS GONNA COST ME 100 CENZ?

IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D SAY YOU DIDN'T LIKE ME
WHAT'S WITH THE SUSPICIOUS LOOKS?

WELL..
..HELLO.
I REQUEST AN AUDIENCE WITH THE FULL-METAL ALCHE-MIST.

THAT'S ALL RIGHT.
TODAY, I'VE BROUGHT A VISITOR FOR YOU TWO.

OH.. THANK YOU.
PLEASE— THIS WAY.
A VISI-TOR?

AH...

...AH
!

GYAAA!

I NEVER ASKED YOU TO COME !!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WHY"?! I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO REPLACE YOUR AUTO-MAIL WITH A SPECIALIZED NORTHERN REGION MODEL?!

GRAAK!

REALLY?! BUT I GOT A PHONE CALL FROM THE MILITARY COMMAND !

HUH? WHY ARE YOU GUYS IN A CELL?! DID YOU GET INTO TROUBLE ?!

SO WHAT? WHY WOULD YOU COME TO SUCH A DANGEROUS PLACE?! I MEAN...

WHY DID YOU COME HERE ?!!

HUH ?!

YOU IDIOT !!!

WAIT— NO !!

COOL! THANKS !

HERE'S A GIFT FOR YOU, AL! POL-ISHING OIL!

WOOP

NOW, NOW. EVERYONE, PLEASE CALM DOWN.

I FINISHED ALL MY WORK BEFORE I LEFT!!

HOW RUDE !

DID YOU DITCH WORK ?!

UH, WELL... NEVER MIND THAT! WHAT ABOUT YOUR CUSTOMERS IN RUSH VALLEY?!

THAT'S WHY HE ARRANGED FOR MS. ROCKBELL TO COME.

WHEN I SPOKE TO THE PRESIDENT ABOUT IT, HE WAS DEEPLY CONCERNED.

I HEARD THAT YOU STILL HADN'T EXCHANGED YOUR AUTO-MAIL FOR A SPECIALIZED NORTHERN REGION MODEL.

PAT

THE PRESI-DENT...

...HAS BEEN VERY WORRIED ABOUT THE TWO OF YOU!

THESE GLASSES PREVENT SNOW BLINDNESS.

FULLMETAL
ALCHEMIST

EXTRAS

...I'LL RIP THAT ANTENNA RIGHT OFF THE TOP OF YOUR HEAD!!
IF YOU DO ANY-THING STUPID...

HE HAS AN EXTRA ONE...
EEEEEP
QUIVR QUIVR
1
2
TRMBL TRMBL

YOJ SAID IT, BRO. WE'LL TOTALLY OWN THIS SCHOOL, YO.

HEH HEH HEH! WE'LL MAKE 'EM REGRET THE DAY THEY LET US ENROLL HERE.

ZAH!!

...THE BATTLE TO BECOME BOSS OF THE SCHOOL !!

AND LIKE EVERY YEAR, THAT'S TIME FOR..

3rd Year Group B. Fullmetal Sensei!!

RIIING RIIING

THE BEGIN-NING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR !!

KICKIN' THIS BROAD'S BUTT WILL BE CAKE!!

YO!! BRING IT ON!!

KLATTA

HERE IT IS, BRO--THE ROOM WHERE THE CURRENT BOSS HANGS OUT!

3rd Year Group B

LET'S DO IT!!

WHERE'S RESEM-BOOL

IT'S IN THE EASTERN BOON-DOCKS A BUNCH OF HICKS AND THEIR SHEEP

THE ELRIC BRO-THERS !!

BWAHAHAHAHA!

WE'RE THE MAD DOGS OF RESEM-BOOL !

WE'RE DEAD !!

FWIP

WILT

RUNG RING

3rd Year Group B

WHACK! POW!

Survival of the Fittest

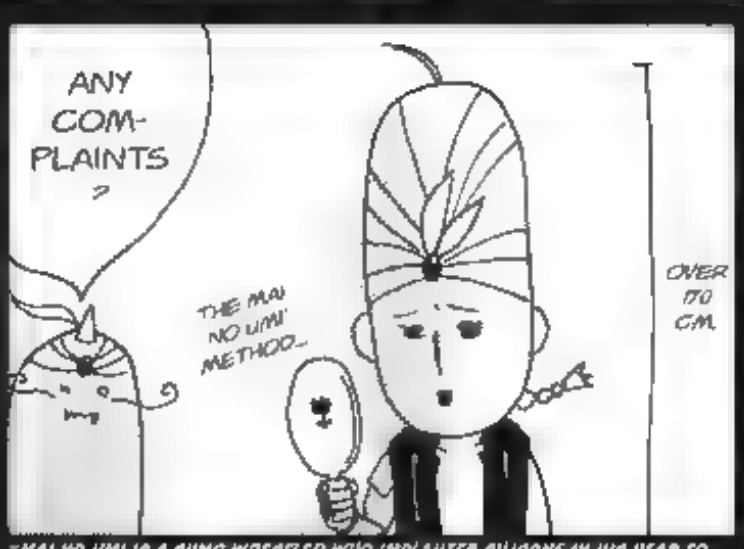
HELLO, THIS IS SHIMO-MURA.
WHEN I'M EATING RAMEN.
GETTING SOGGY.
HELLO, THIS IS SHIMO-MURA.
WHEN I'M EATING UDON.
GETTING SOGGY.
EVERY TIME I SIT DOWN TO EAT HE CALLS ME ON THE PHONE - IT'S LIKE HE PLANNED IT!!
BRRING
HELLO, THIS IS SHIMO MURA.
WHAT'S STRANGE ABOUT THIS EDITOR?
HOT POT.
SQUARE ENIX
MY FIRST MEAL IN OVER A DAY.
Cowshed Diaries
Shimomura the Psychic!!!
LET'S PUT THE SPOT-LIGHT ON HIM TODAY.
MR. SHIMO-MURA HAS BEEN MY EDITOR SINCE FULLMETAL VOLUME 1.
BAD PORTRAIT.
WE MADE IT TO THE TOP!!
SHO-SENKYO GORGE
TRAVEL ON FOOT FOR A FEW HOURS ON MOUNTAIN ROADS.
PASS TO SHO-SENKYO GORGE
20 TO 30 MIN. BY BUS.
KO-FU STATION
BEGINNING THE JOURNEY WITH HIGH HOPES, WE TRAVEL FOR A FEW HOURS.
TOKYO
AND...
WHEN MY FRIENDS AND I WENT TO THE YAMANASHI MOUNTAINS TO EAT HOTO, A TRADITIONAL PUMPKIN & NOODLE STEW.
ZOOM
HELLO, THIS IS SHIMO-MURA.
WHEN I'M EATING CRAB, OYSTERS, OR GRILLED BEEF...
THEY'RE GONNA EAT IT ALL!
HELLO, THIS IS SHIMO-MURA.
WHEN I'M HAVING ICE CREAM.
IT'S MELTING.
BRRRRING
BRRRING
HA--
YEAH, RIGHT
WOULDN'T CALL AT A TIME LIKE THIS!!
IT WOULD BE SO FUNNY IF MR. SHIMOMURA CALLED!!
HA HA HA HA HA HA
THE SCENERY'S GREAT TOO. I FEEL LIKE MY SOUL IS BEING PURIFIED.
REWARD FOR ALL THOSE HOURS OF HIKING.
THE RESTAURANT AT THE SUMMIT
GOBBLE GOBBLE
SLURP
IT'S SO GOOD.
THIS PUMPKIN HOTO SURE IS AMAZING
I DON'T CARE!!
WAIT A MINUTE!! BECAUSE YOU DRAW ME LIKE THIS, MY DAD CALLED TO ASK ME, "IS THAT YOUR NEW HAIRSTYLE?!"
DON'T CALL ME WHEN I'M ABOUT TO OPEN UP A BAG OF CHIPS!!
SQUARE ENIX
REALLY THE END.
I SENT SOME FAXES TO YOU, SO WHEN YOU GET HOME GIVE ME A REPLY BEFORE TOMORROW.
OH, REALLY?
I GUESS THAT THERE MUST BE A SURVEILLANCE CAMERA ATTACHED TO ME SOMEWHERE.
I'M IN THE YAMANASHI MOUNTAINS EATING HOTO AT THE SUMMIT...
WHERE ARE YOU RIGHT NOW? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HELLO, THIS IS SHIMO-MURA
THE END
AFTER I FINISHED DRAWING THIS, I WAS EATING DINNER AND, SURE ENOUGH, HE CALLED AGAIN.

Havoc & The Magic Books

MAYBE THE WAITER FORGOT TO GIVE US ONE.
THERE'S NO NUT-CRACKER FOR THESE WALNUTS
OH...
ON A DATE WITH SOLARIS AT A BAR
WALNUTS FOR SNACKING

Edward & The Magic Lamp 3

NO THANKS. ONE OF THESE DAYS I'LL SNATCH THAT POSITION FROM YOU ON MY OWN.
OKAY, DAMN IT. I'LL LET YOU BE THE MAIN CHARACTER FOR AN ENTIRE DAY!!
MEH. IT'S ALL ABOUT NARUTO RIGHT NOW.
I HAVE NO CHOICE! I'LL GIVE YOU MY YU-GI-OH CARD COLLECTION!!
HUH?! WHA...WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
PLEEEASE!
I CAN'T EAT SNACKS
I'LL GIVE YOU THREE YEARS WORTH OF SNACKS!!



*MAI NO UMI IS A SUMO WRESTLER WHO IMPLANTED SILICONE IN HIS HEAD TO MEET SUMO HEIGHT REQUIREMENTS.

FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST 17

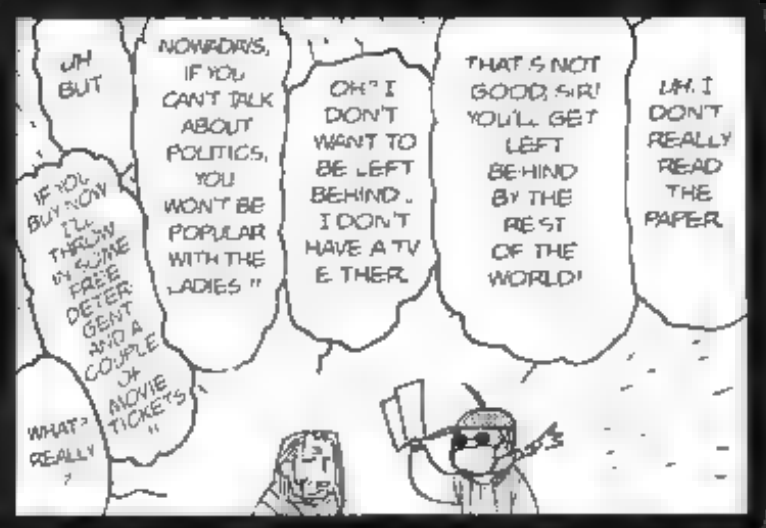
SPECIAL THANKS to:

SANKICHI HINODEYA
JUN TOHKO
AYABALL
NONO
Big bro YOICHI KAMITONO
MASASHI MIZUTANI
SAKAMAKI
COUPON
NORIKO TSUBOTA
HARUHI NAKAMU
JUNSHI BABA sensei
MASANARI YUZUKA sensei
ICHTYS sensei
My Editor YOICHI SHIMOMURA

AND... YOU !!

A Day in the Life of Father

THIS IS THE SECRET HIDEOUT BELOW CENTRAL CITY.
HEH HEH HEH.
NO ONE KNOWS OF ITS EXISTENCE. NO ONE CAN EVER KNOW OF ITS EXISTENCE.


UH BUT
NOW-DAYS, IF YOU CAN'T TALK ABOUT POLITICS, YOU WON'T BE POPULAR WITH THE LADIES"
OH" I DON'T WANT TO BE LEFT BEHIND. I DON'T HAVE A TV E THER.
THAT'S NOT GOOD, SIR! YOU'LL GET LEFT BEHIND BY THE REST OF THE WORLD!
UH. I DON'T REALLY READ THE PAPER.
IF YOU BUY NOW I'LL THROW IN SOME FREE DETERGENT AND A COUPLE OF MOVIE TICKETS"
WHAT? REALLY?

I CAN'T BUTTON UP THIS UNIFORM BECAUSE IT'S TOO TIGHT AROUND THE CHEST
SIGH...
ME TOO.
RECENTLY I RECEIVED A PIECE OF FAN MAIL WHICH ASKED, "ARE ALEX AND OLIVIER REALLY BROTHER AND SISTER?"
SEE?
YEP, THEY REALLY ARE.

WHO WILL TURN THEIR BACK...?

AS MANKIND'S GREATEST SIN COMES TO FRUITION...

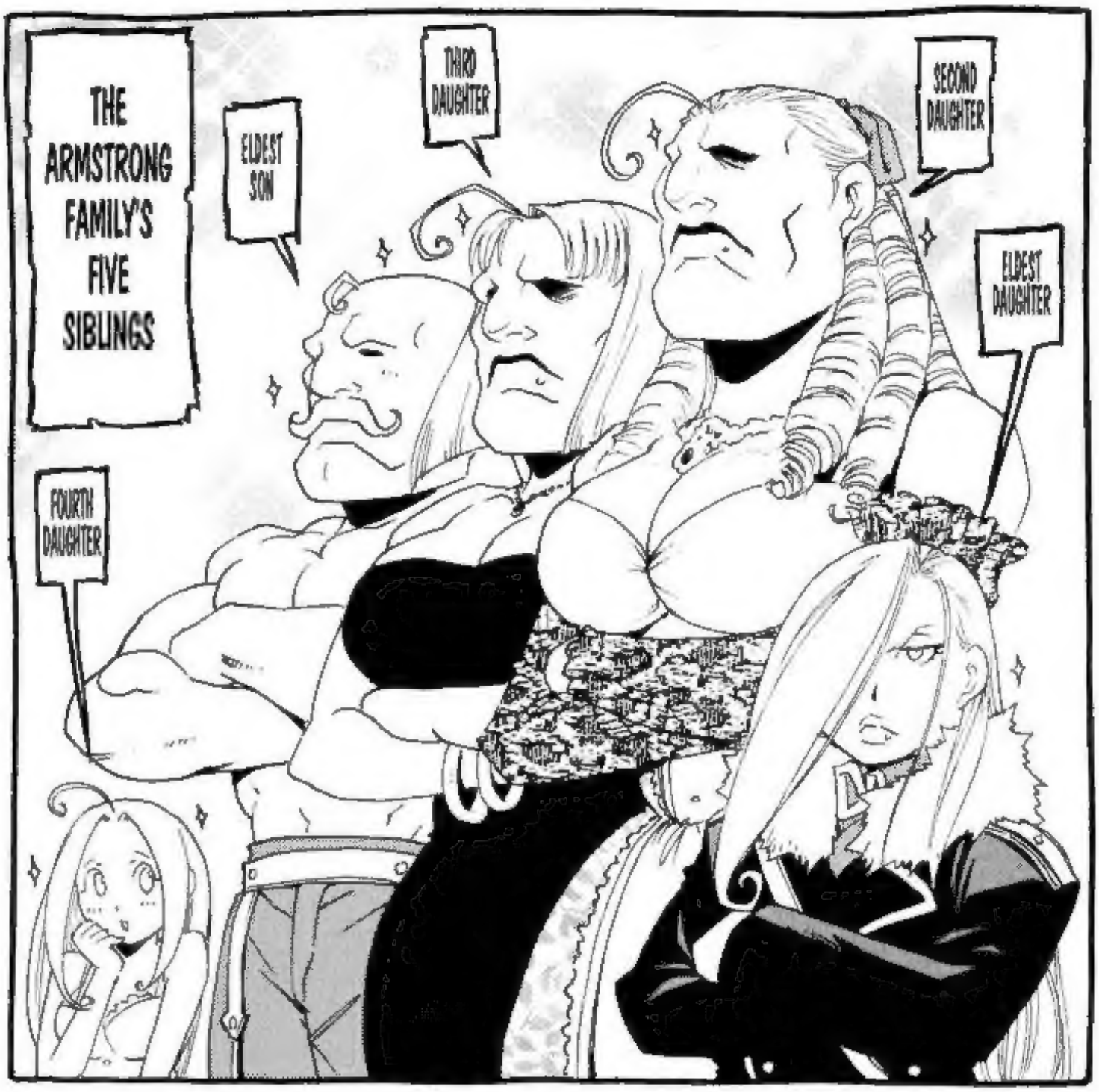
AND WHO WILL FORGIVE?!

A girl struggles with her captors and her conscience in a world where survival of the fittest is law. Who will change the world?

... NO ONE IS INNOCENT.

FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST 18 ON SALE NOW!

Fullmetal Alchemist PREVIEW


THE ARMSTRONG FAMILY'S FIVE SIBLINGS
ELDEST SON
THIRD DAUGHTER
SECOND DAUGHTER
ELDEST DAUGHTER
FOURTH DAUGHTER
CATHERINE
ALEX
STRONGINE
AMUE
OLIVIER

AHH...

IT'S SUMMER!
TIME FOR THE FULLMETAL THEATER MANGA FESTIVAL!!!
I'LL MAGICALLY CAPTURE YOUR HEART!
MAGICAL PINAKO
"THE APPEARANCE OF BLACK PINAKO" EPISODE.
PROTECT MY ANTENNA!
THREE FILMS IN A ROW THIS YEAR!
PREMIERS AUGUST 32ND!!!!
GOLD
FULL METAL
3
ALSO PREMIERING...
IT'S HARD TO BE MASUDA
IT'S HOT AGAIN IN CENTRAL CITY TODAY.
ALCHEMY SQUAD
FULLMETAL RANGERS
THE ANTENNA CRISIS!!
CENTRAL WAY COWSHED BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR
CENTRAL CINEMA MILITARY DIVISION
FIFTH ST., RESEMBOOL 57 MINUTES ON FOOT
TOHO CINEMA
PRESALE TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!!!
ADULTS 1600 CENZ
CHILDREN 1000 CENZ
PRESALE TICKET NUMBER 587!!!!!
IF YOU ORDER A PRESALE TICKET NOW, YOU'LL GET A FREE BRA STRAP!

FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST ⑰

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English Adaptation: Jake Forbes
Touch-up Art & Lettering: Wayne Truman

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